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Anya hid in bedroom from armed robbers

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First member of Royal Family speaks out after Andrew features in released files

EDWARD'S CALL TO REMEMBER VICTIMS OF EVIL EPSTEIN

...and police probe Mandelson as he steps down from Lords over emails

PRINCE Edward has urged people to "remember the victims" of sick paedophile Jeffrey Epstein.

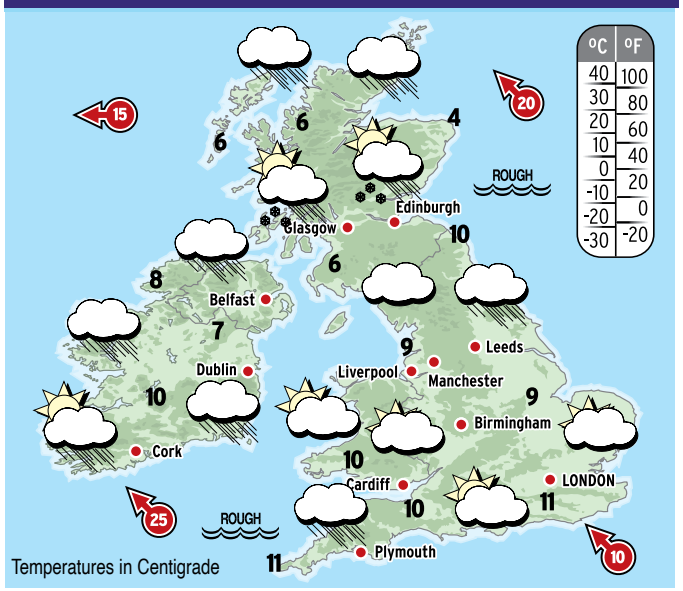
BY **REBECCA RUSSELL** and **EMILY FERGUSON**

The Duke of Edinburgh became the first royal to respond to the latest Epstein Files release in which his brother Andrew features more

TURN TO PAGE 4

DX1ST

WEATHER FORECAST



Today's summary: Cloudy morning, breezy evening

North West: Cloudy with drizzle early. Clearing to fair later. Breezy with mild temperatures. High 9C (48F).

Northern Ireland: Wet spells early on. Drier, cloudy afternoon. Moderate winds, cool to mild temps. High 8C (46F).

Wales: Cloudy with drizzle early, turning to light rain later. Breezy with mild temperatures. High 10C (50F).

Midlands: Some bright spells developing but with isolated showers too. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

North East/Yorks: Mostly cloudy with the chance of scattered light showers. Light winds. High 8C (46F).

Scotland: Wet, easing to drizzle later. Breezy. Chilly to mild temperatures, overcast skies. High 6C (43F).

East Anglia: Cloudy with limited brightness but it will remain largely dry. Gentle southerly winds. High 10C (50F).

London/South East: Cloudy, turning fair with clear spells. Breezy, mild with freshening winds. High 11C (52F).

South: Cloudy, some light rain later. Mild with brisk winds from the south. High 11C (52F).

South West: Cloudy with light rain for a time. Brighter spells later. Breezy and mild. High 10C (50F).

Channel Isles: Cloudy with drizzle at times. Greyer later with heavier drizzle. Breezy, mild conditions. High 10C (50F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Rough. Channel: Moderate.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Expect breezy conditions with cloud cover, occasional sunshine, and mild temperatures. Light rain possible in the north.

SIX-DAY FORECAST Temperatures in Centigrade

	THU min	THU max	FRI min	FRI max	SAT min	SAT max	SUN min	SUN max	MON min	MON max	TUE min	TUE max
London	6	9	7	10	6	11	7	11	6	11	4	9
Belfast	4	7	5	5	6	8	6	8	4	8	4	7
Birmingham	3	7	5	7	5	10	6	10	5	9	3	8
Cardiff	6	9	6	9	5	10	6	10	5	10	4	9
Glasgow	4	7	4	6	5	8	5	9	4	8	3	7
Manchester	4	6	5	6	6	10	6	10	5	9	4	8
Newcastle	3	5	4	5	5	7	5	7	4	7	3	6
Norwich	4	5	5	7	6	10	6	9	5	8	3	7
Plymouth	8	11	8	11	7	11	8	10	7	10	6	10

Britain yesterday

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	TEMP (max)
Aberdeen	0.0	0.35	5	6
Aberporth	0.0	0.00	2	8
Alnwick	0.0	0.03	1	6
Belfast	0.0	0.02	0	8
Birmingham	0.0	0.04	6	7
B'mouth	1.5	0.02	5	10
Bristol	0.0	0.06	5	8
Cardiff	0.0	0.00	4	8
Durham	0.0	0.02	3	7
Edinburgh	0.2	0.02	2	7
Glasgow	0.3	0.04	4	8
Hull	0.0	0.04	6	7
Ipswich	0.0	0.04	6	6
Leeds	0.0	0.03	5	6
Lincoln	0.0	0.00	6	6
London	0.0	0.25	7	9
Manchester	0.2	0.00	5	9
Oxford	0.0	0.02	6	8
S'hampton	0.9	0.10	6	9
St Andrews	0.0	0.03	2	6

Moon, sun and tides

MOON rises: 8.25pm, sets: 8.34am
SUN rises London: 7.34am, sets: 4.55pm
Manchester rises: 7.48am, sets: 4.57pm

Last Quarter 09 February

HIGH TIDE

London B'ge	(3.22am), (3.43pm)
Liverpool	(12.31am), (12.46pm)
Greenock	(2.12am), (2.02pm)
Dover	(12.26am), (12.50pm)

Britain Extremes: (24 hours to 11pm Monday)
Warmest: Valley, 10c (51f).
Coldest: Dundreggan, -3c (26f).
Wettest: Craibstone No 2, 0.90ins.
Sunniest: Stornoway, 6.1hrs.

Lighting-up times

Belfast	5.08pm-8.05am
Birmingham	4.59pm-7.42am
Bristol	5.05pm-7.42am
Glasgow	4.57pm-8.03am
London	4.55pm-7.32am
Manchester	4.57pm-7.47am
Newcastle	4.49pm-7.49am

Europe forecast

Today			Tomorrow		
Amsterdam	Fair	9C/48F	Amsterdam	Cloudy	3C/37F
Brussels	Fair	11C/52F	Brussels	Drizzle	9C/48F
Dublin	Showers	9C/48F	Dublin	Rain	8C/46F
Frankfurt	Fair	6C/43F	Frankfurt	Cloudy	6C/43F
Geneva	Fair	8C/46F	Geneva	Rain	10C/50F
Lisbon	Rain	16C/61F	Lisbon	Thunder	16C/61F
Madrid	Rain	11C/52F	Madrid	Showers	14C/57F
Paris	Fair	13C/55F	Paris	Rain	12C/54F
Rome	Showers	14C/57F	Rome	Rain	15C/59F

Around the world yesterday

		C	F			C	F			C	F
Amsterdam	Cloudy	-1	30	Hong Kong	Fair	17	63	New York	Sunny	-1	30
Athens	Sunny	14	57	Istanbul	Cloudy	5	41	Nice	Fair	14	57
Barcelona	Sunny	14	57	Jersey	Cloudy	9	48	Nicosia	Sunny	16	61
Berlin	Cloudy	-6	21	Larnaca	Sunny	19	66	Perth	Sunny	32	90
Budapest	Snow	-2	28	Las Palmas	Fair	22	72	Prague	Cloudy	-1	30
Cairo	Sunny	19	66	Los Angeles	Sunny	22	72	Singapore	Fair	30	86
Cape Town	Cloudy	27	81	Luxor	Sunny	23	73	Stockholm	Fair	-7	19
Casablanca	Thndr	14	57	Malaga	Shwrs	11	52	Sydney	Shwrs	22	72
Corfu	Cloudy	15	59	Mallorca	Sunny	16	61	Tel Aviv	Thndr	18	64
Dublin	Rain	5	41	Malta	Sunny	18	64	Tenerife	Fair	22	72
Dubrovnik	Cloudy	11	52	Melbourne	Sunny	28	82	Toronto	Sunny	-6	21
Faro	Fair	14	57	Miami	Sunny	11	52	Tunis	Fair	17	63
Florence	Rain	11	52	Moscow	Cloudy	-23	-9	Venice	Rain	7	45
Gibraltar	Rain	11	52	Nairobi	Sunny	20	68	Vienna	Snow	-1	30
Guernsey	Cloudy	10	50	New Delhi	Sunny	17	63	Warsaw	Sunny	-10	14

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Supermax prison security for most extreme terrorists

Abedi, Hassan and a US supermax prison outisde Florence, Colorado

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES**

THE most dangerous convicted terrorists will face "supermax-style" conditions behind bars after the brother of the Manchester bomber allegedly tried to kill three prison officers.

Justice chiefs ordered a probe into separation centres after Hashem Abedi, who plotted the Arena atrocity, reportedly poured a pan of hot oil over one officer before stabbing him in the neck with a home-made knife last year.

Terror watchdog Jonathan Hall KC said wings should be overhauled to prevent jihadis from radicalising other prisoners.

Now extremists, such as Abedi will face restrictions inspired by US supermax jails.

Justice Secretary David Lammy told MPs: "We will explore all available options to overhaul the system, including at the next spending review, the creation of new tougher supermax-style units for the most violent, disruptive prisoners."

In the US, the most dangerous terrorists are handcuffed every time they leave their cells and are escorted by prison officers everywhere. They stay in their cells for 23 hours a day.

During Abedi's alleged oil attack on a prison officer at HMP Frankland in Co Durham last April three other officers came to his aid. Two were injured, needing surgery.

Abedi has pleaded not guilty to three counts of attempted murder on three officers and one count of assault occasioning actual bodily harm on a fourth officer. The case will be heard in 2027.

Behead

With his brother, the suicide bomber Salman, Abedi prepared the attack on the Ariana Grande concert in 2017. The convicted terrorist is serving at least 55 years.

Mr Hall highlighted cases where terrorists, including one who threatened to behead prison officers, used Article 8 of the ECHR – the right to a family life – to meet with others. The government has pledged reforms.

Leveson call for trials to be done via video-links

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES**

THOUSANDS of criminals could be allowed to hide in their cells rather than face their victims in court, under new plans.

Sir Brian Leveson, in a scathing assessment of the crumbling criminal justice system that he is reviewing, suggested more video hearings to slash delays to justice.

Convicted offenders should only physically attend sentencings if victims want to give an impact statement, Sir Brian said.

And he argued that "professional witnesses", such as police officers, should be able to give evidence by video-link.

While trials would still be held in person, most preliminary hearings in the crown court and the first hearings in magistrates courts should also be remote, Sir Brian said.

Richard Atkinson, of the Law Society, said: "We are concerned about proposals which may distance defendants from the court and their solicitor.

"There have been several pilots of video remand courts and they have thrown up many difficulties."

CORRECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

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Kate in stitches as she shows off her sewing skills

Catherine in vintage Welsh wool coat for the visit to Melin Tregwynt

THE Princess of Wales breaks into a laugh at a woollen mill as she was praised for "amazing" needlework.

Catherine, appropriately dressed in a vintage Welsh wool coat, was visiting Melin Tregwynt in Pembrokeshire – which produces luxurious blankets and throws.

Offered the chance to help mend a broken thread in a roll of fabric, she completed a 2in repair under the guidance of Paula Harding.

The expert was impressed by Catherine's handiwork, saying later: "She did it right, it's amazing, and she didn't go through the other side, that's skill – she's got the skill."

BY **EMILY FERGUSON**
Royal Editor

Quality

After being told Ms Harding was the third generation of her family to work at the mill, the Princess remarked yesterday: "That's what's wonderful about these family businesses, they're so based on these families and intergenerations passing on these techniques."

Melin Tregwynt was run for more than 100 years by generations of the Griffiths family before it was set up as an employee-owned trust in 2022.

Known for the high quality of its wool blankets – they sell for up to £450 – the company still weaves in the centuries-old mill bought by Henry Griffiths in 1912 when he started the business.

Visiting a workshop in which staff use sewing machines to stitch edges to the cloth, the Princess confessed: "I was trying some sewing at Christmas time. I was very slow."

Later, at family-owned firm Hiut Denim in Cardigan, Catherine used a sewing machine to attach a Made in Wales tag to a pair of jeans.

Hiut was founded in 2011, to bring the knowledge and skill of making jeans back to Cardigan, where production began in the 1960s.

The future queen has a keen interest in fabrics and visited a number of weaving mills and manufacturers over the past year.

She toured a tartan-weaving studio in Stirling in January and last year visited textile makers in Carmarthenshire, Suffolk, Kent, and Co Tyrone. Catherine, 44, also perused a William Morris fabric sample book at the V&A East Storehouse, Stratford, East London.

EXPRESS EXTRA
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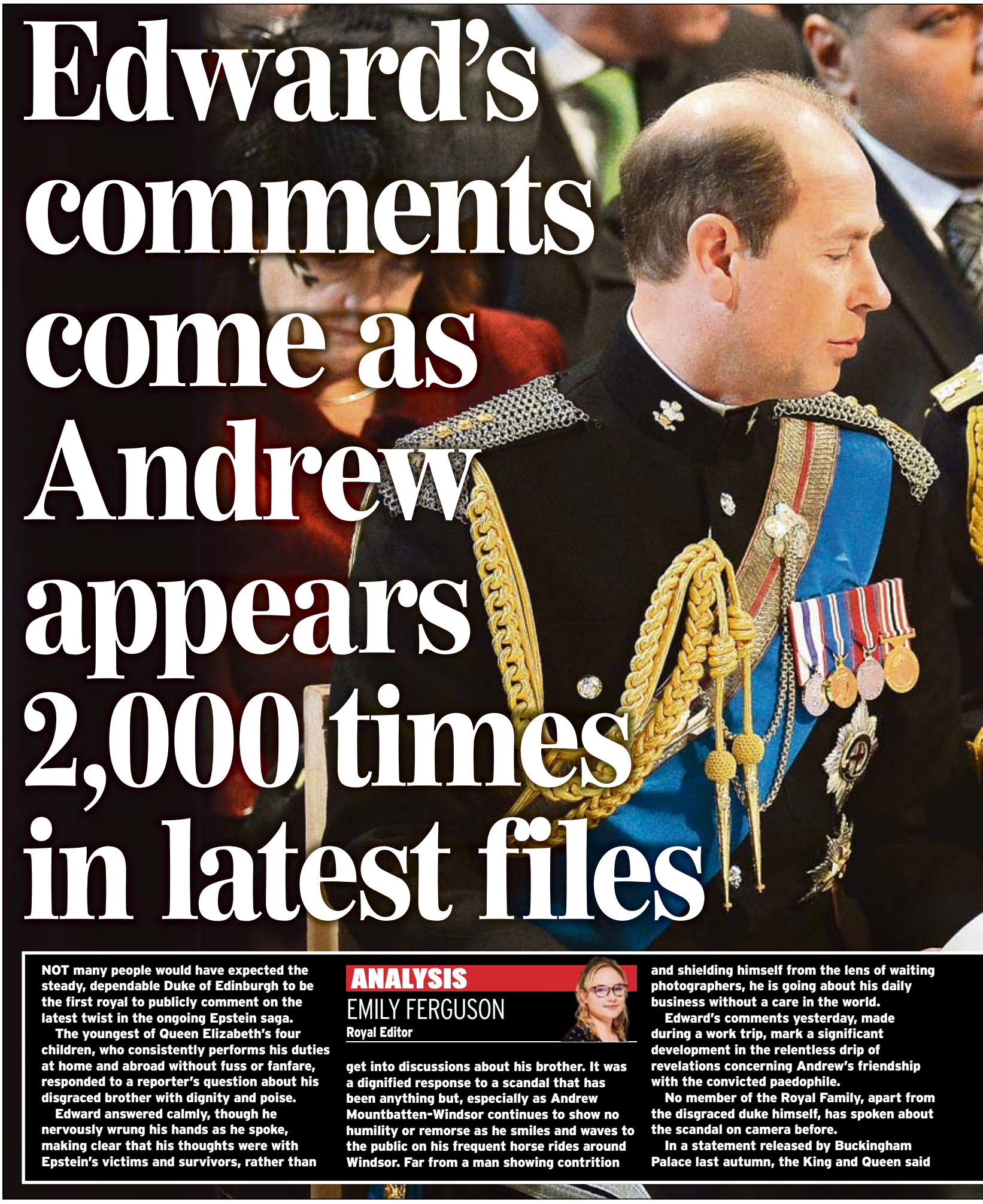
Princess waves to fans, feels fabrics and, above, sews on a tag

Snap appears to show Andrew and woman

Edward's comments come as Andrew appears 2,000 times in latest files



NOT many people would have expected the steady, dependable Duke of Edinburgh to be the first royal to publicly comment on the latest twist in the ongoing Epstein saga.

The youngest of Queen Elizabeth's four children, who consistently performs his duties at home and abroad without fuss or fanfare, responded to a reporter's question about his disgraced brother with dignity and poise.

Edward answered calmly, though he nervously wrung his hands as he spoke, making clear that his thoughts were with Epstein's victims and survivors, rather than get into discussions about his brother. It was a dignified response to a scandal that has been anything but, especially as Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor continues to show no humility or remorse as he smiles and waves to the public on his frequent horse rides around Windsor. Far from a man showing contrition and shielding himself from the lens of waiting photographers, he is going about his daily business without a care in the world.

Edward's comments yesterday, made during a work trip, mark a significant development in the relentless drip of revelations concerning Andrew's friendship with the convicted paedophile.

No member of the Royal Family, apart from the disgraced duke himself, has spoken about the scandal on camera before.

In a statement released by Buckingham Palace last autumn, the King and Queen said

ANALYSIS

EMILY FERGUSON
Royal Editor

FROM PAGE ONE

than 2,000 times across around three million pages relating to the late paedophile financier. The dossier was published by the US Department of Justice last week.

Asked how he was coping after days of "very difficult" headlines about Epstein that fall "very close to home", Edward said: "I think it's really important always to remember the victims, and who are the victims in all this?"

His remarks, during an official four-day trip to the United Arab Emirates, were the first public comments made by a member of the Royal Family about the ongoing scandal since the latest files were released on Friday.

They included photos that seem to show Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor on all fours over an unidentified woman lying on the floor. His appearance in yet more documents sparked calls for him to finally testify to the US Congress on his relationship with Epstein.

EXPRESS VOTE

Should Andrew testify in the US Congress about Epstein?

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NO: 0901 133 4441
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Yes text DXYES to 63333
No text DXNO to 63333
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The latest revelations also suggest that Andrew, 65, did not cut ties with the disgraced billionaire in December 2010 as he claimed.

He and his ex-wife Sarah Ferguson are believed to have been involved in a number of email exchanges with Epstein published in last week's tranche, with one file even appearing to show Andrew inviting the convicted sex offender to Buckingham Palace.

The files also include apparent offers by Epstein to introduce Andrew to a "beautiful" 26-year-old Russian woman called Irina.

Several email exchanges call into question Andrew's claim that December 2010, when the pair were pictured walking together in New York's Central Park, two years after the financier pleaded guilty to soliciting a minor, was the last time they communicated.

The then-prince told Emily Maitlis during an infamous BBC Newsnight interview in 2019 "to this day I never had any contact with him from that day forward".

But the latest release includes emails between Epstein and a person believed to be Andrew which date from after this period. One message suggested that the paedophile advised Andrew's businesses until at least 2017. The correspondence seems to show Andrew's closeness to Epstein, sharing family photos and exchanging messages on Christmas Day.

Buckingham Palace declined to comment on the latest releases, instead pointing to its statement last October when Andrew was formally stripped of his titles by his brother, the King.

Abuse

Strong action was taken including removing his birthright princely title and persuading him to leave his Windsor mansion Royal Lodge. At the time, the Palace said: "Their Majesties wish to make clear that their thoughts and utmost sympathies have been, and will remain, with the victims and survivors of any and all forms of abuse."

Weeks prior, Andrew agreed to relinquish his Duke of York title, alongside ex-wife Sarah, formerly known as the Duchess of York.

The decision was made after the posthumous publication of a book called Nobody's Girl by Virginia Giuffre, who alleged she was trafficked at 17 by Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, who is serving 20 years in a US jail for recruiting and trafficking teenage girls to be sexually abused by the financier.

Andrew paid millions to Ms Giuffre, a woman he has claimed never to have met, to settle a civil sexual assault claim in 2022.

The former prince has vehemently denied any wrongdoing.

Legal representatives for a second accuser have urged the King to get in touch following allegations their client was sent to the UK for a sexual encounter with Andrew.

Lawyer Brad Edwards, of the US firm Edwards Henderson, previ-

Edward and brother Andrew at service in St Paul's cathedral in 2015

their "thoughts and utmost sympathies" are with the victims of abuse but other than that they have responded through actions - namely the stripping of titles and privileges.

It is clear Edward has inherited his late mother's no-nonsense attitude and was quick to respond to the question in an appropriate, diplomatic manner.

There's unlikely to be any further reaction from the Firm any time soon but the prince has shown that the Royal Family stand firmly behind the victims, not their disgraced relative.

ously told the BBC his client spent the night with Andrew after being given a tour of Buckingham Palace.

Thames Valley Police confirmed it will review the latest claim.

Assessing

It said: "We are aware of reports about a woman said to have been taken to an address in Windsor in 2010 for sexual purposes.

"We are assessing the information in line with our established procedures. At this time, these allegations have not been reported to Thames Valley Police by either the lawyer or their client."

The latest allegations have led to calls, including from Sir Keir Starmer this week, for Andrew to finally testify to the US Congress about the extent of his relationship with the disgraced financier, who died in jail in 2019 awaiting trial on child sex trafficking charges.

On Monday it was announced that Sarah Ferguson's charity, Sarah's Trust, would close in the wake of the fresh revelations about her own friendship with Epstein.

OPINION: PAGE 12

Police probe Mandelson over 'leak of official information to Epstein'

BY **MARTYN BROWN**

LORD Peter Mandelson faces a criminal investigation into allegations he leaked sensitive government information to paedophile Jeffrey Epstein.

The Met Police announced he is being investigated on suspicion of misconduct in public office. The offence carries a maximum sentence of life.

It said: "The Met received a number of reports into alleged misconduct in public office including a referral from the UK government. The Metropolitan Police has now launched an investigation into a 72-year-old man, a former government minister, for misconduct in public office offences."

Lord Mandelson – who gave up his seat in the Lords at midnight last night – was Gordon Brown's Business Secretary during the 2008 financial crash and aftermath.

The US files apparently showed him passing material to billionaire financier Epstein on at least four occasions in 2009/2010.

Former PM Mr Brown said he had given Met Police relevant information. He called Lord Mandelson's alleged leaks "an inexcusable and unpatriotic act at a time when the whole government and country were attempting to address the global financial crisis that was damaging so many livelihoods".

The Cabinet Office also passed material to detectives after an initial review of the Epstein files found they contained "likely market-sensitive information" and that official handling safeguards had been "compromised".

Lord Mandelson in full garb; angry PM, left

Detectives will interview Lord Mandelson, 72, and gather statements from senior Labour witnesses, including Mr Brown. They are also seeking unredacted emails from US authorities.

The PM appointed the former spin doctor as ambassador to the US a year ago and sacked him from the job in September when emails from the Lord to Epstein were revealed.

Sir Keir's official spokesman said he opened yesterday's Cabinet meeting by saying he was appalled by the information that had emerged over the weekend: "He said the alleged passing-on of emails of highly sensitive government business was disgraceful, adding that he was not reassured that the totality of information had yet emerged."

Sir Keir has ordered officials to draft legislation to remove Lord Mandelson's peerage. This has not been done since nobles who sided with the Germans in the First World War lost theirs.

In a Times interview before the latest allegations emerged, Lord Mandelson admitted to a "lapse in judgment" over Epstein's funding of an osteopathy course for his husband Reinaldo Avila da Silva in 2009.

Recollection

The files contain a reference to a £10,000 transfer from the paedophile. The peer also insisted he had "absolutely no recollection" of receiving payments totalling $75,000 (around £55,000) from Epstein between 2003-04 as bank details in the official American files indicated.

At Cabinet, Sir Keir said: "For the public to see politicians saying they can't recall receiving significant sums of money is just gobsmacking, causing them to lose faith in all politicians and weaken trust still further."

Tory leader Kemi Badenoch said it was "right" there is a full criminal investigation, calling it a "national embarrassment".

But she added it "should not distract from the fact that the Prime Minister appointed a man who was the close friend and associate of a notorious and convicted paedophile".

ANALYSIS

MARTYN BROWN
Political Editor

PETER Mandelson once told me to fk off. Most people now think it's time he did the same.**

The vulpine Labour grandee is quitting the House of Lords as the storm rages over his links to Jeffrey Epstein.

And it is only a matter of time before his peerage is thrown onto the scrapheap too.

It was 16 years ago when the Prince of Darkness delivered his acerbic barb to yours truly.

Back in 2010, he was already well into his third comeback, brought into government to help save Gordon Brown's bacon.

It failed. Brown capitulated at the election, which ended in a hung parliament, ultimately ushering in 14 years of Tory rule.

Mandelson, inevitably, was at the centre of frantic coalition negotiations as Labour, the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats embarked on days of political horse-trading.

On one such fever-pitched morning I spotted a serpent-like figure slithering its way along a dimly lit and gargoyle-lined underpass on the parliamentary estate. It was Mandelson, of course, so I rushed to quiz him on the negotiations.

He gave me short shrift, the words oozing out of his sneer like crude oil from a leaking tanker. The next time I came face to face with the Dark Lord was during his fourth political comeback at a glitzy champagne and cocktail party on a balmy February night in Washington, DC last year.

Sir Keir Starmer had just jetted in, with myself and a bunch of other political hacks in tow, to welcome the man he appointed as the new British ambassador to the US. What he knew that night was that Mandelson had been close friends with paedophile financier Epstein.

It is those links and subsequent bombshell revelations that will undoubtedly end his political career once and for all.

And they may just hasten the end of Sir Keir's too.

TORIES SAY ANOTHER U-TURN WOULD

Fury at Labour bid to the back door' as bloc

BY **KATIE HARRIS**
Senior Political Correspondent

KEIR Starmer has been warned against taking Britain "into the EU by the back door" by joining a customs union, after Brussels said it is open to the move.

A senior EU official said the bloc is "ready to engage" if the UK wants to look into the trading arrangement.

But Brexiteers accused Labour of trying to "reopen old wounds".

Shadow Foreign Secretary Dame Priti Patel blasted: "Keir Starmer and his Labour colleagues want to take us into the EU by the back door. They have never got over losing the referendum and will do all they can to water Brexit down.

"At the election, Labour promised not to rejoin the customs union.

"Yet senior Labour figures are now openly flirting with handing away our ability to direct our own trade policy and police our customs borders as we see fit.

"We could be set for yet another Labour U-turn – and another broken promise.

"Labour are flailing around in search of something or someone to blame for the results of their disastrous leadership and are trying to reopen old wounds by taking us back to 2016. Only the Conservatives are focused on the real challenges facing our country and on delivering a stronger economy, stronger borders and a stronger country."

Reform UK warned that the government is "stuffed full of Remainers who can't be trusted to negotiate with the EU".

A spokesman added: "Any attempt to rejoin the customs union would be an outright betrayal of the 17.4 million British people who voted for Brexit."

The backlash comes after Latvian Valdis Dombrovskis, the European commissioner for the economy and productivity, made his comments on a custom union following the latest trade talks earlier this week.

Chancellor Rachel Reeves hosted Mr Dombrovskis and European commissioner for trade Maros Sefcovic – alongside Cabinet ministers Peter Kyle and Nick Thomas-Symonds – at 11 Downing Street on Monday.

Asked after the meeting if the bloc would welcome discussions on Britain rejoining the customs union, Mr Dombrovskis told the BBC: "We are ready to engage with an open mind and seek those areas of co-operation."

He added that the bloc is also "open to discuss different areas as regards a single market".

Sir Keir, who campaigned for Remain and a second referendum, previously set out his Brexit "red lines" not to return to the single market, customs union or freedom of movement. He reiterated last week that he would not seek to rejoin the customs union, which he admitted would mean having to "unpick" post-Brexit trade deals with countries such as the US and India.

But he said aligning with the single market is "the place to look" in negotiations.

Pressure

The Prime Minister called for Britain to aim to "go further" at each UK-EU summit ahead of the second one, which is due to take place later this year.

But he is facing pressure from some Labour MPs to back a customs union, which removes tariffs between members and sets up a common external tariff for non-members, while several ministers have also indicated their support.

Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy highlighted in December how membership of a customs union with the EU had boosted growth in Turkey.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting, a potential future leadership rival to Sir Keir, has also suggested Britain should join a customs union with the EU.

But Downing Street yesterday repeated Sir Keir's "red lines" when asked about a

Pictures: PETER NICHOLLS/GETTY

'Protect Ukraine borders? What about our own?'

BY **CONOR WILSON**

LEE Anderson dismissed Sir Keir Starmer's attempts to gain control of migration as an "absolute disgrace" as he called for the Prime Minister to resign.

The Reform UK MP denied the government is managing to bring down the number of people entering the country in small boats.

He argued that instead of focusing on the protection of Ukraine, Sir Keir should focus on protecting the UK's borders.

Appearing on our Daily Expresso news chat show, Mr Anderson, *inset*, said: "They're not smashing the gangs, they are smashing all the records, that's what they are doing.

"It's an absolute disgrace what's happening in this country. We can't protect our own borders. And then he has the cheek, the gall, to talk about the coalition of the willing to protect Ukraine's borders.

"He can't even protect our own borders. The man's a joke. He needs to resign."

Net migration to the UK fell by 204,000 between July 2024 and June 2025 – a 69% decrease on the previous 12 months.

Immigration is down in the same period by 898,000, Home Office data shows.

Asylum applications were up 13% while from October 2024 to September 2025 deportations and returns rose 11%, with 36,457 removed.

In the first 26 days of this year, 933 people entered the country in small boats, according to Home Office data.

Mr Anderson said the approach Reform would take to border control is: "Say you're not coming in. It's as simple as that."

● *Watch new episodes of the Daily Expresso Monday to Friday on the Express YouTube channel*

Rachel Reeves with Valdis Dombrovskis

BE A BETRAYAL OF BREXIT VOTE

‘take us into EU by is ‘ready to engage’

Farage proposes five-point plan to revive British pubs

Farage: Our economic plans will save ailing pubs and hospitality

BY **CHRISTIAN CALGIE** Senior Political Correspondent

NIGEL Farage has unveiled a five-point plan to save Britain’s pubs and hospitality industry, as he warns that communities are facing a disaster.

The Reform UK leader said his party would deliver cuts to beer duty and business rates to “reverse the damage inflicted by the Tories and Labour”.

MP Lee Anderson set out that a Reform government would: reduce VAT to 10% for the hospitality sector; scrap the employed National Insurance increase; cut beer duty by 10%; implement staggered business rate abolition for all pubs; and free landlords up from restrictive contracts imposed by conglomerate owners.

Mr Farage said the changes would be funded by reinstating the two-child limit on Universal Credit, with an exception for working British families who would still receive it.

Celebrity

The party claimed this would fund the £2.9billion policy, while incentivising hard work and cutting the cost of a pint by up to £1 over time.

During the press conference, Mr Farage took a dig at celebrity publican Jeremy Clarkson, who wrote this weekend that no one knows what Reform’s economic policies are.

The 65-year-old former Top Gear star blasted: “All they’ve told us is that they’re going to do something about immigration, and for a huge number of people, that’s enough.”

Mr Farage held up his new plan to cut pub taxes as proof the party is fleshing out its policy offering, adding that Mr Clarkson should “spend less time with David Cameron in Chipping Norton”.

According to official statistics, one pub in Britain closes every day, with recent tax hikes prompting some 89,000 job losses in the sector under Labour.

Last week, Chancellor Rachel Reeves announced a 15% cut to new business rates bills from April, in response to outrage over planned hikes.

customs union with the EU. The PM’s official spokesman said: “We will not be rejoining the customs union, single market or returning to freedom of movement.

“Those are our red lines, as per the government’s manifesto.

“We do want a closer economic partnership with the EU but rejoining the customs union would unpick important trade agreements.”

The Liberal Democrats, who are demanding a bespoke customs union with the bloc, seized on Mr Dombrovskis’ comments. Daisy Cooper, the party’s Treasury spokesperson, said: “This is a significant moment that the government simply cannot afford to ignore.”

Crusade

It comes as the Daily Express is pushing the Labour administration to reap the rewards of Britain’s exit from the EU with our Give Us a Proper Brexit campaign. The new crusade, which comes ahead of the 10th anniversary of the 2016 referendum, has been backed by Brexiteer heavyweights including Reform UK leader Nigel Farage and former Tory prime minister Boris Johnson.

The campaign is calling for Britain to leave the European Convention on Human Rights, slash red tape for businesses and enforce a 12-mile exclusion zone around the UK for British fishing vessels only.

OPINION: PAGE 12

Lord Frost says measures killing growth

‘Youngsters miss out on first job due to Reeves’

BY **DAVID WILLIAMSON**

THE Chancellor has made it 7% more expensive to give someone their first job, research has shown.

Rachel Reeves’ increase in employers’ national insurance contributions and a hike in the national living wage – both last April – forced up the bill.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research said the average cost of hiring an entry-level employee was £22,178 in 2024 but £23,727 last year.

There are fears firms will be even more reluctant to take on staff as a result of new workers’ rights.

Fantasy

Tory Lord Frost, of the Institute of Economic Affairs, said: “Hiking taxes, spending and regulation on workers is fatal for growth.”

Emmanuel Igwe, of the Prosperity Institute, said: “The Chancellor seems to think she can squeeze every pound from employers without a knock-on effect on workers – but that is economic fantasy.”

Net-zero migration at a time of low birth rates could increase the Budget deficit by £37bn in today’s prices by 2040. NIESR forecasts short-term real wages and disposable income will go up but in the long term the size of the economy could be 3.6% smaller.

The Treasury said: “Headroom won’t be assessed in March but last year we doubled it. We have defied expectations on growth, with the OBR, Bank of England, IMF, OECD and BCC all upgrading forecasts. The UK is also expected to be the fastest growing European G7 economy this year and next.”

TO READ ALL THE BEST POLITICAL STORIES OF THE DAY GO TO EXPRESS.CO.UK/POLITICS

Call for changes to the law after hero bus driver fired

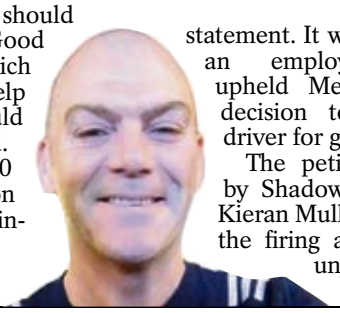
BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES**
Home Affairs Editor

THE case of a hero bus driver being sacked after protecting a victim of crime is not a "one-off" and the law needs to change, ministers were told.

Mark Hehir, 62, was fired by Metroline after he chased down and later punched a thief who had stolen jewellery belonging to one of his passengers, Katalin Kaszas.

The Conservatives have said people like Mr Hehir should benefit from a "Good Samaritan" defence, which means those trying to help victims of crime should not be unfairly punished.

More than 125,000 people signed a petition calling for Mr Hehir's reinstatement. It was launched after an employment tribunal upheld Metroline's original decision to sack the bus driver for gross misconduct.



'Samaritan' Mark Hehir

The petition was started by Shadow Justice Minister Kieran Mullan who described the firing as "shameful and unjust". He added: "I want to say a huge thank you to every person who supported Mark.

"He has been overwhelmed by the public's support.

"The criminal law is clear on our right to use reasonable force to prevent crime and help the victims of crime. This case is not a one-off.

"It is clear we need to ensure the right balance in employment law for employers and employees."

Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy described Mr Hehir as a "hero" and he said of proposals for a Good Samaritan clause: "We have to work across government, in a bipartisan manner, of course.

"I'm happy to work with the honourable gentleman and ministers on this." Meanwhile, Ms Kaszas, 46, said she felt "so guilty" after learning Mr Hehir had lost his job, adding: "I don't think he deserved that."

The tribunal was told the bus driver responded in self-defence and hit the thief once, knocking him unconscious.

Metroline said: "The tribunal has upheld the dismissal as fair."

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Picture: LEON NEAL/GETTY

MP with army in Arctic

Labour MP and former commando colonel Al Carns in Norway exercise

BY **FRANCES MILLAR**

BRITAIN'S Armed Forces Minister swapped the warmth of Westminster for numbing Norway as he joined cold weather army exercises.

Former colonel Al Carns scaled a frozen waterfall during reserve training with British Commando Forces. The Labour MP wrote: "Dusting off some old skills and drills in the Arctic Circle."

Third of new Big-C cases found to be preventable

BY **STORM NEWTON**

ALMOST a third of new cancer cases in the UK in 2022 were preventable, with the causes of the disease including smoking, excess weight and UV ray exposure.

The World Health Organisation and its International Agency for Research on Cancer looked at 30 risk factors that cause the disease, including smoking, drinking alcohol, high body mass index, air pollution and infections.

Data from across 185 countries showed about 7.1 million of the 18.7 million new cancer cases diagnosed globally in 2022 were preventable.

UK figures show 32.6% of all new cases – more than 148,000 – were caused by preventable factors.

The top cause was tobacco smoking (16.2%), followed by excess body fat (4.2%) and ultraviolet radiation (3.6%), the study found.

WHO's Dr Andre Ilbawi said: "Today, we are here to celebrate good news founded on strong science – many cancers are preventable."

Dr Ilbawi said the findings, published in the journal Nature Medicine, "help us understand what is driving the cancer burden".

He said: "These are the same risk factors that place a massive strain on communities' systems through many other diseases beyond cancer.

"Investing in cancer prevention, therefore, delivers wide-ranging societal benefits."

'UPFs raise risk of dying'

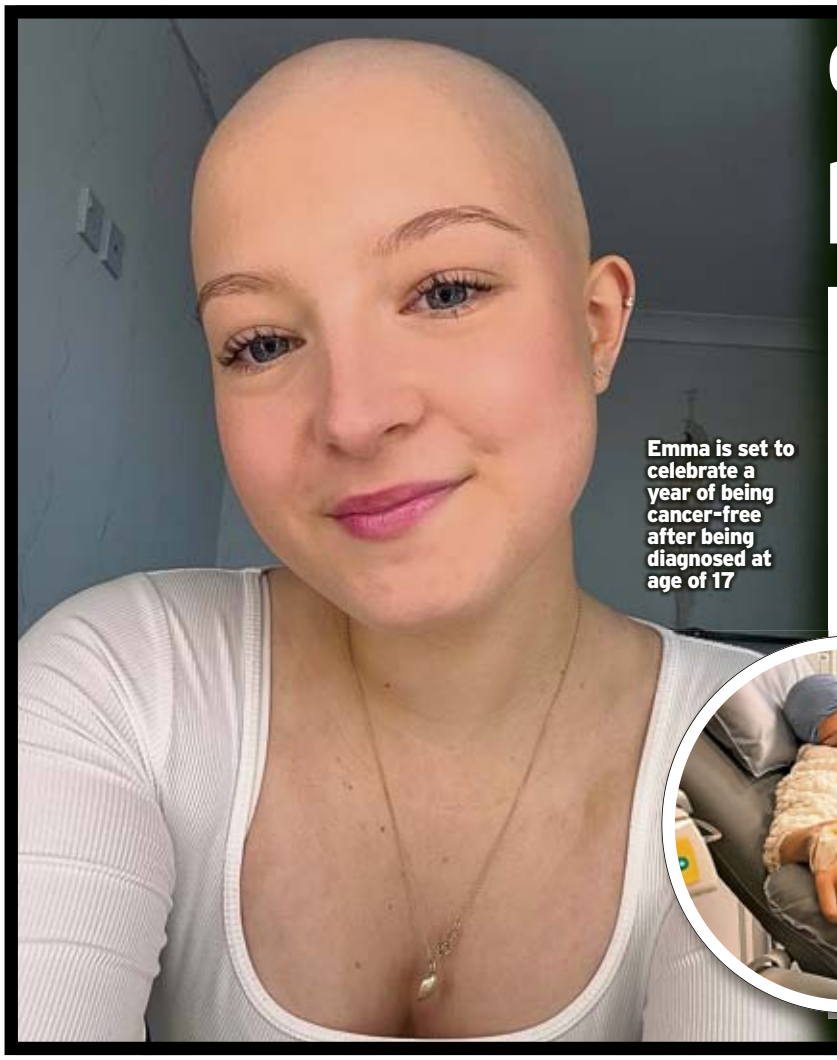
BY **JANE KIRBY**

EATING a lot of ultra-processed food greatly raises cancer patients' risk of dying, a study suggests.

Italian scientists tracking patients from 2005 to 2022 found those in the top third by UPF intake had a 48% higher rate of death than the lowest third.

Their risk of dying from cancer specifically was up 59%.

Dr Marialaura Bonaccio, of IRCCS Neuromed in Italy, said: "Substances involved in industrial processing of foods can interfere with metabolic processes, disrupt gut microbiota, promote inflammation."



Emma is set to celebrate a year of being cancer-free after being diagnosed at age of 17

90-minute, £70 trip to have lifesaving chemo

ELEANOR Johnson had to travel 90 minutes for chemotherapy at a specialist hospital after she was diagnosed with cancer aged 17.

She spent 18 months visiting doctors with symptoms including chest pain and declining iron levels before scans confirmed it was Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Eleanor, now 19, from Southend-on-Sea, added: "It's like being on a hamster wheel. I went straight into chemotherapy, in hospital, and it's very sudden. It was overwhelming."

She said a £10million fund to cover travel costs for children with cancer, "could save lives."

It was unveiled today as part of the government's National Cancer Plan. Eleanor was under the care of University College London Hospital, a specialist centre for her age group and type of cancer. The 90-minute journey from her home to the hospital by train and tube cost around £70 for her and mum Sarah – who gave up work to care for her.

They sometimes needed to attend hospital on five days in a row, which would have cost up to £350 per week.

Luckily, a charity arranged for the train company to provide free travel.

And Young Lives vs Cancer provided accommodation for them in Paul's House – a facility near the hospital for children undergoing cancer treatment.

Eleanor said: "I was really lucky to be able to stay at Paul's House. Sometimes my chemo would finish late, around 8pm. If I had to go home all the way back to Southend that would have been really tiring."

Tomorrow Eleanor will celebrate a year of being declared cancer-free.

BY **HANNA GEISSLER**

'Three-quarters of cancer patients cured or living well by 2035'

BY **HANNA GEISSLER**
Health Editor

THREE in four cancer patients will be free of or living well with the disease five years after their diagnosis by 2035, according to a target announced by the government.

Labour today publishes its National Cancer Plan setting out a blueprint for improving care over the next decade.

Its new flagship target will require a significant increase in survival rates, with around 60% of patients currently surviving for five years.

Labour will also pledge to meet all NHS cancer waiting time standards by 2029, requiring hundreds of thousands more patients to start treatment faster.

Scanners

A key target for 85% of patients to receive their first treatment within 62 days of an urgent referral has not been met since 2015.

Under the new plan, the NHS aims to ensure 75% of patients receive a diagnosis or have cancer ruled out within 28 days of a referral, and that 96% start treatment within 31 days of a decision to treat.

Michelle Mitchell, chief executive of Cancer Research UK, said a wide range of measures would be needed for this to happen, adding: "England lags behind comparable countries on cancer survival and it's vital this changes, so more people affected by cancer can live longer, better lives."

Labour's cancer plan aims to improve survival rates in England, which lag behind comparable countries

The strategy also promises sweeping reforms including a £2.3billion investment in scanners, digital tech and automated testing to deliver almost 10 million additional tests by 2029.

More patients will be offered robotic-assisted surgery, which can reduce complications and free up hospital beds. And everyone who can benefit will be offered genomic testing to analyse their cancer's DNA and pinpoint the best treatment. Health Secretary Wes Streeting, who was treated for kidney cancer in 2021, said survival "shouldn't come down to who won the lottery of life".

He added: "Cancer is more likely to be a death sentence in Britain than other countries around the world.

"As a cancer survivor who owes my life to the NHS, I owe it to future patients to make sure they receive the same outstanding care I did.

"Our cancer plan will invest in and modernise the NHS, so that opportunity can be seized and our ambitions realised. This plan will slash waits, invest in cutting-edge technology and give every patient the best possible chance of beating cancer."

Other measures include the launch of a travel fund for young patients.

The government has allocated up to £10million a year to support the families of children who must travel for treatment, regardless of their income.

Professor Peter Johnson, NHS national clinical director for cancer, said the plan would set "a clear roadmap for the NHS to diagnose more cancers earlier".

Vision

Gemma Peters, chief executive of Macmillan Cancer Support, said the "bold ambitions" come "at a time when people with cancer tell us all too often care hasn't been good enough".

She added: "This plan has the potential to transform care. We look forward to working with the government to make this vision a reality."

Dame Laura Lee, chief executive of Maggie's, said it is vital patients have "the right practical, emotional support" to live with, and after, cancer.

Our reporter Robert Fisk has been campaigning for better mental health support for NHS cancer patients.

OPINION: PAGE 12

Letby during a grilling by police

Notes scribbled as things 'spiralled'

LUCY Letby told police she felt "it was all spiralling out of control" when they quizzed her about the babies' murders.

Officers had found notes she wrote then stashed in a black bin liner at home which read: "Murderer", "Murder", "I am evil", "I did this", "I killed them" and "I am a horrible evil person".

In police interviews shown in the Netflix documentary The Investigation of Lucy Letby, she says she wrote them as "everything had got on top of me".

Confession

The scribblings were used by the prosecution, who claimed they were a form of confession. Her defence said she was told to write down her feelings and her faults as a form of therapy after being given counselling at the Countess of Chester Hospital.

Letby also writes: "Not good enough", "Why me?", "I haven't done anything wrong".

After her arrest she says "no comment" to many of the police's questions but opens up when quizzed about the notes.

BY **PHIL CARDY** and **MARK JEFFERIES**

She says: "I just wrote it because everything had got on top of me. It was when I found out I'd been removed from the unit. I felt like they were blaming my practice. That I might have hurt [the babies] without knowing... I was blaming myself, but not because I'd done anything – because of the way people were making me feel.

"I felt like I'd only done my best for those babies and then people were trying to say my practice wasn't good...I just couldn't cope with it. I did just not wanna be here any more. I felt it was all spiralling out of control."

The programme also tells how Letby emailed officers in charge of the investigation to say: "I am happy to be contacted if you wish to discuss anything."

But she is less forthcoming in the interviews. When told 887 babies had been treated at the neonatal unit since she left and none had died or deteriorated, she just says "no comment".

With cat in the Netflix documentary

I was just so angry,

Mum's memories of nurse jogged by picture on news

BY **PHIL CARDY** and **MARK JEFFERIES**

A MUM has spoken about the devastating moment she saw her baby girl die after being harmed by evil nurse Lucy Letby.

Speaking for the first time about baby Zoe's death, she revealed she watched helplessly as doctors desperately tried to save her daughter.

Letby, 36, is serving life in jail after she was convicted of murdering seven infants and attempting to murder seven others between June 2015 and June 2016.

Killer with a babygro

The mum said: "My husband and I just broke down. We were just saying, 'what's going on?' I was just so angry and so sad and so confused."

A new Netflix documentary, The Investigation of Lucy Letby, tells how Zoe – not her real name – was born on June 20, 2015, but died two days later.

Her mum had gone to the Countess of Chester Hospital where Letby worked after her waters broke three weeks early. After a 60-hour labour she insisted on a caesarean, but the baby was rushed to intensive care.

The mum said: "It was hard looking at her in the incubator. I couldn't take her out, but I was able to hold her hand. She was so fragile, small and precious, I became a mummy.

"The doctors were telling us that she was responding very well, that she was responding as expected, and there were no concerns."

But she recalls the hour which followed: "I was fast asleep when a nurse turned a light on. She said, 'you need to come right now'. I remember being wheeled down the corridor thinking, 'what's going on?'

"I felt the panic in the room. The doctor was trying everything to keep her heart pumping.

"But the other doctor put her hand on his shoulder and said, 'You need to let her go'.

"The doctor was still holding Zoe, but he stopped. That was it. It was finished. It was over."

Dr John Gibbs says it was the third death in just over two weeks at the hospital's neonatal unit. Zoe's mum recalls how she later received a call from the police telling her someone had been arrested in connection with the baby's death. She says: "All of a sudden I realised someone could have purposely targeted my child. We were just completely lost for words."

She said when she saw Letby's

Killer tells friend: I will not give up

LUCY Letby has said from jail that she will not give up claiming her innocence.

The convicted child murderer's vow is revealed in a letter to a friend that features in Netflix documentary The Investigation of Lucy Letby.

The friend, given the on-screen name of Maisie, reads out the letter in which Letby says: "I have my own room and toilet. I'm able to shower each day and go outside for a walk. Getting outside is so important, even though it's bit chilly.

"I miss Tigger and Smudge so much, it's heartbreaking that they cannot understand why I'm no longer there. They must think I'm a terrible

Handcuffed Letby is led into police station

Being checked in at police station...

...and frisked before detention

Mother's cries as daughter arrested

BY **MARK JEFFERIES** and **PHIL CARDY**

THE mother of Lucy Letby wailed in pain as her daughter was led away by police in handcuffs.

Susan's cries are heard for the first time in a Netflix documentary out today, which includes footage from Cheshire Constabulary.

As police officers enter Letby's parents' home in Hereford, her mum is also heard to cry "oh no" and "please no, not again, no!"

The police then go upstairs and arrest Letby while she is still in bed. This footage is understood to be the second time Letby was arrested at her parents' home, in June 2019.

As police enter her bedroom, she sits looking stunned.

Cats

A policeman tells her: "I'm arresting you on suspicion of murder and attempted murder."

After reading Letby her rights, he adds: "I appreciate it's quite the shock. What we need for you to do now, Lucy, is for you to get up and get yourself dressed."

Letby then walks down the stairs with officers and begs "please can I see my cat" and is allowed to hold a pet before she is cuffed.

Off camera Letby is picked up by a mic telling her parents: "You know I didn't do it." Her mum replies: "I know you didn't. We know that!"

Her dad John can also be heard agreeing. Letby refers to her cats again when she walks out of the front door, saying: "It's all right,

Seen inside cell in documentary

look after the boys." As Letby leaves the house, her mum can be heard starting to sob at the front door again. "Just go in, Mum," Letby tells her.

The police car then drives her to the police station, where she faces further questioning.

The shocking scene is the opening to the new Netflix documentary. Her parents have criticised Cheshire Constabulary's decision to give film of their home to Netflix, calling it a "complete invasion of privacy".

John and Susan Letby arrive at court for daughter's murder trial

The couple even raised concerns the documentary might make their home into a tourist attraction.

The shocked parents told The Sunday Times: "The previous programmes made about Lucy, including Panorama and the almost nightly news showing her being brought out handcuffed in a blue tracksuit, are heartbreaking for us. However, this Netflix documentary is on another level. We had no idea they were using footage in our house.

"We will not watch it. It would likely kill us if we did. All this taking place in the home where we have lived for 40 years. It is in a small cul-de-sac in a small town..."

They were especially aggrieved police had released the film given that, they say, they themselves first approached police in March 2017 to report that hospital consultants were making their daughter a scapegoat.

so sad and so confused

picture on the news, "I recognised the nurse straight away.

"When I visited Zoe for the last time she had a clipboard but was just watching us."

She tells the documentary: "Preparing for the trial was very challenging. There wasn't a day I wasn't thinking about Zoe.

"I wanted to do her justice. I knew Lucy Letby was going to take the stand so I needed to face her.

"For the first time since Zoe's death I was seeing Lucy Letby. I sat three metres away from her. She looked at me a dozen times, staring. Every time, I'd have to look down."

In police interviews after her arrest, Letby, from Hereford, said "I don't really remember" when asked about baby Zoe's death.

Officers found she had searched the names of baby Zoe's parents on Facebook following the baby's death.

But in court Letby recalled details of all of the 17 infants she was accused of harming – except Zoe.

Zoe's mum says she feels guilty about not being there for her child.

She is also angry that an expert questioning Letby's conviction was introduced by Tory MP David Davis at a press conference as "the star of the show".

The mum says: "This is not a show. There is no star. It is disgusting."

● *The Investigation Of Lucy Letby is out now on Netflix.*

mummy." She tells of her battle to stay "strong and positive", adding: "I'm determined to get through this. I will not give up."

Friend and fellow nurse Maisie says: "Up until the trial and verdict I would write to Lucy and she would write back. Now I don't know what to say." Later in the film she says she still believes her friend but admits to some small doubts, saying: "There's always doubt, because as much as you know someone, you never know the whole of someone...But unless I saw actual evidence, I can't believe it. I know people think I support a baby murderer, but she's my friend."

Letby, 36, of Hereford, is serving 15 whole-life terms for murdering seven infants and attempting to murder seven more. Her barrister Mark McDonald, fighting for a retrial, tells the documentary: "No one saw her do anything wrong. There's no CCTV. There was no motive. This was a unit in crisis. Nurses were crying because of...being overworked."

Corridor within the Countess of Chester Hospital's neonatal unit

DAILY EXPRESS

One Canada Square, London E14 5AP
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Time Andrew told all for sake of Epstein's victims

PRINCE Edward displayed decency and wisdom that Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor has sadly lacked when he urged people to "remember the victims" of paedophile financier Jeffrey Epstein.

His brother's reputation has been wrecked as a result of his dealings with the sexual predator, and his failure to show regret for the friendship in his 2019 Newsnight interview caused jaws to drop.

If Mr Mountbatten-Windsor had displayed Edward's good sense and not obfuscated about the nature of the continuing relationship, he would not be in such a hole today.

It is clear that Andrew did not cut ties with Epstein in 2010 and the latest file disclosures from the US Department of Justice are humiliating.

His late mother was assiduous in her protection of the Crown, but her scandal-mired son is a catastrophically poor judge of character.

He denies any wrongdoing and, indeed, he has never been found guilty of a crime, but if he wants to restore a scintilla of dignity, Andrew should answer, in person, every question that the relevant US authorities want to put to him.

Former US president Bill Clinton and his ex-secretary of state wife Hillary are to testify in a congressional investigation, so no Briton with first-hand experience of this monster should refuse to give evidence.

The victims are not the wealthy men now boiling with embarrassment. They are the women who were ensnared, exploited and abused by Epstein. The full foul horror of his criminal cruelty must not be forgotten.

We should heed Edwards' counsel and "always" keep the true victims at the forefront of our minds.

Epstein is dead so they will never be able to look him in the eye across a courtroom, but anyone who has information about the pain he inflicted on the innocent on an industrial scale should step forward.

Stop Brexit saboteurs

BREXIT is in danger every day that Labour remains in power. European Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis says the bloc would be "open to discuss different areas as regards a single market".

There is no shortage of apparatchiks among the political elites of both Brussels and London who dream of unravelling Brexit and making the UK a rule-taker once more.

This is exactly why we have launched our Give Us A Proper Brexit campaign.

Too many people in the Labour Party want to take us back into the EU.

The only way to get a proper Brexit is to get them out.

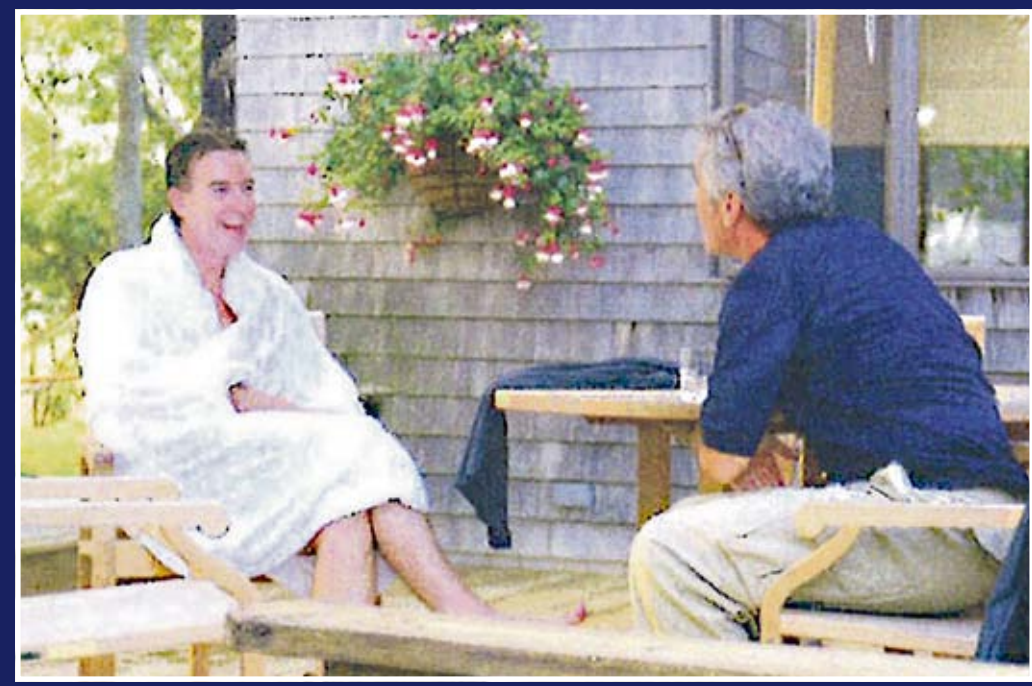
Cancer survival in sight

THE National Cancer Plan sets out the bold ambition that three-quarters of cancer patients will be cured or "living well" five years after diagnosis by 2035.

For everyone's sake, we hope that this target is hit.

Britons deserve the best care in the world, and we thank everyone working for breakthroughs in healing for their exceptional service.

Labour's devotion to 'Prince of Darkness' lays bare its failings



Peter Mandelson enjoyed a close friendship with disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein

Tim Newark
Political Commentator

JUST when you thought Labour couldn't get any more sleazy, allegations emerge that Peter Mandelson – Sir Keir Starmer's now-sacked US ambassador – passed on confidential government information to convicted paedophile Jeffrey Epstein when he was business secretary in 2009.

Given Mandelson's chequered record, these latest claims expose once again the PM's woeful judgment in sending him to Washington.

Again and again, Labour ignored the trail of grubby deals that followed Mandelson – once dubbed the Prince of Darkness.

From a dubious home loan, to securing a foreign plutocrat's passport, to preening himself aboard the yachts of billionaire Russian oligarchs, and now being snapped in his underpants in Epstein's apartment, Mandelson has always been drawn to very wealthy people.

Ironically, what made him a shrewd choice as US ambassador to Donald Trump, a complete lack of Left-wing virtue signalling, meant he hid in plain sight from the Labour leadership under Blair, Brown and, most recently, Starmer. So desperate were they for a pragmatic if devious enabler, they constantly overlooked his flaws.

It says a lot about the hopeless Labour Party that they have so few realistic politicians to choose from their ranks of ideologically blinded apparatchiks.

NOW it appears that not only was Mandelson a Machiavellian money-grabber, he may also have passed privileged, market-sensitive government information to his "best pal" Epstein.

There are even rumours the financier might have worked with the KGB to collect compromising information on influential politicians and businessmen. What is clear is that he gathered information on powerful friends that might one day be helpful for him.

The information Mandelson is alleged to have shared with Epstein – who was serving a jail sentence at the time for soliciting prostitution from a minor – was sent by Brown's special adviser Nick Butler on June 13, 2009, after the global financial crisis. It detailed potential policy measures and suggested the government had saleable assets. Mandelson forwarded the email to Epstein and said: "Interesting note that's gone to the PM."

Other information included prior notice of a £500billion EU bailout and heads-up on Brown's resignation.

Mandelson also revealed notes on confidential meetings between the then Chancellor and US economist Larry Summers, on changes to banking regulation and taxation.

All this has been reported to the Met Police to investigate the leaking of highly sensitive information as possible misconduct in public office. Brown, who nominated Mandelson for a peerage, failed to see his colleague's failings but has now called for a police investigation which was confirmed last night.

But whatever anyone knew, that Starmer should re-employ Mandelson in a key post where sensitivity to secret government information is of utmost importance shows a lack of judgment.

The PM often seems detached from the common-sense feelings of ordinary Britons. His great Chagos giveaway is a case in point, seemingly driven by a desire to worship at the altar of international law and a personal friendship with Attorney General Lord Hermer rather than any strategic interests.

His past association with the prosecution of British servicemen is worrying too. Then, there is the illogical devotion to Ed Miliband's costly and potentially disastrous net-zero crusade. There is a sickness at the heart of the Labour chumocracy that does no favour to our national interest and, at its worst, actively betrays it.

U-turn after U-turn shows Starmer puts himself above party and country, shoring up support from Left-wing backbenchers before being forced, kicking and screaming to recant.

Time and time again, Labour Party leaders have used Mandelson to shore up their own positions, despite his obvious flaws.

'Labour leaders used Mandelson to shore up their own positions'

WILLING to overlook his numerous transgressions, they see him as an antidote to the woolliness of the party faithful.

But by violating the trust put in him, allegedly passing on government secrets to an outsider, he has surely reached the end of their tolerance – and ours.

Having already been forced to resign from the Labour Party, he has now decided to step down from the Lords as well – bringing an end to some four decades of public service in which he has appeared to serve himself as well as anyone else.

Vanessa Feltz

FROM THE HEART

Jilly administered kiss of life advice

DAME Jilly Cooper was a tonic. Just basking in her company for 10 minutes set you up for the rest of the week. She adored dogs, the countryside, smoking, drinking and bonking. Her enthusiasm was indefatigable.

In her final interview, conducted with the author Jojo Moyes just a month before her death, Dame Jilly dispensed these invaluable words of wisdom: "Nobody has sex any more. People, they jog rather than snog now. Don't you think? Everybody takes exercise. If you leave today with one message, it is this: go home, snog, don't jog."

Jilly had a point. We've become so intent on prolonging our lives, we've forgotten how to enjoy them. Earnestness is a crushing bore."

Let's channel Jilly and reignite our light-hearted friskiness before it's too late for frivolity and foreplay.

No English words for mother's pride

THERE is a Yiddish word for the joy parents experience from their children and grandchildren that has no English equivalent. "Nachus" erupts when your baby says "mama", your daughter qualifies as a lawyer, or your grandson wins a trophy.

Hollywood icon Jewish mother and Oscar winner Goldie Hawn has an example. Her Instagram post, after daughter Kate Hudson was nominated for an Oscar for her performance in Song Sung Blue, encapsulates it.

"Oh my baby... my baby girl! I love you as big as the universe. Congratulations, sweetheart. Once upon a time, I had a little girl named Kate! And look at her now! Yay!" Now see what I mean?

My rage against the Melania PR machine

DEAR readers, I spent Saturday night and my own money watching Melania so you don't have to. After 25 years as an Express columnist, I owe you that sacrifice. As one hour and 48 minutes of my life ebbed away, a single word throbbed in my beleaguered brain: "WHY?" "What was the First Lady's aim?"

The $28million fee funnelled directly to her by Jeff Bezos aside, why did she allow cameras to "capture" heavily structured, leadenly scripted, faux, behind-the-scenes moments in her baffling life? There isn't one off-the-cuff utterance in this rigidly controlled PR puff. Melania reads a stilted voiceover with all the oomph of a disengaged Dalek. She looks perfectly perfect in every frame. She is immaculately made-up, flowing follicles subjugated into military alignment.

She wears trouser suits, custom-tailored to be less comfy than armour-plating. She clicks along at ferocious speed in viciously vertiginous stilettos. The flawless façade does not slip.

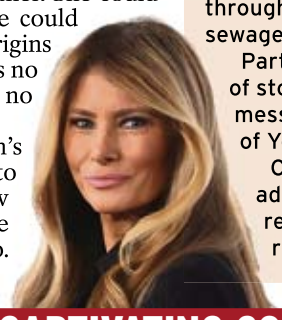
Even after 20 straight hours in heels on Inauguration Day she doesn't allow herself a wince when, in what must be abject agony, she prises off the killer Christian Louboutins.

Melania talks of her "vision". Dress designers, florists, party planners and domestic staff exist simply to make "her vision" reality. She believes she "works with" her teams. Of course, the invitations in scarlet envelopes, billows of blousy peonies and Herve Pierre white ballgown with black accents, structured internally "without a single visible seam", are conceived and created without her.

SHE says she works for the benefit of the world's children. No children feature here. Even her 6ft 8in son Barron doesn't utter a word. The other Trump children and grandchildren are airbrushed out. She misses her mother and pays a "private visit" to light a candle in her memory.

The cameras capture her standing rigidly to attention. Her father is spotted, looking exhausted. She could talk to him about her mother. She could give him a cuddle. She doesn't. She could have shown snaps of her humble origins in Slovenia. She doesn't. Melania has no fun, no friends, no hobbies and no sense of humour.

She claims to love Michael Jackson's music, but doesn't know the words to Billie Jean. I know her no better now than before sitting through this sterile claptrap and I'm not sure I want to. Why, why, why Melania?



Helen's got a Heart of gold

CORONATION Street star Helen Flanagan's autobiography Head & Heart is a harrowing chronicle of vulnerability, exploitation, anxiety, naivety and hope.

Helen lays her soul on the line. She joined Britain's best-loved soap aged nine and was turned into a minxy sex symbol in her early teens. She struggled desperately to bridge the gulf between the saucy character folk expected her to be and her real personality.

Helen's life has been played out in public. She has been patronised, judged, criticised and underestimated.

Now a mum of three, she is determined her honesty will set her free from decades of pre-conceptions. In person, Helen is shy, polite and utterly disarming. I wish her the happiness and stability she deserves.

DON'T you feel like plunging into a bath of disinfectant after wading through the sordid sleaze seeping like sewage from the revolting Epstein files?

Particularly horrifying among the slew of stomach-turning pictures and messages is Fergie, the former Duchess of York, asking Epstein to "marry me".

One from Epstein to a redacted address, sent in March 2010, simply reads "ny?". The reply, also from a redacted address, says: "Not sure yet. Just waiting for Eugenie to come back from a shagging weekend!" If that's her, what kind of mother would dream of discussing her 20-year-old daughter in such terms with anyone, let alone a man guilty of procuring a child for prostitution?

Sarah's desire for money overrode decency, delicacy, loyalty and a natural inclination to distance herself and family from evil Epstein. I hear from Fergie's inner circle she is planning to continue a public life. Someone should disillusion her.

FROM LLAND OF HOPE AND GLORY TO CAPTIVATING CORK – WE LOVE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

NEARLY two in five people are planning a nostalgic trip this year. We hanker for the locations featured in our misspent youth. My mother dreamed of Llandudno. She was evacuated there and the seafront and tang of salty air were forever imprinted in her memory. Why she spent years pining for a place she could have reached in three-and-a-half hours on the train, I can't explain.

She died at the age of 57 without making the sacred pilgrimage. Determined not to let lassitude keep me from the places I hanker for, I broke the bank and bought a house in beloved East Cork in 2017. I set foot in Cork Airport and my spirit soars. It's usually pouring. Posters proclaim: "Direct flights from Cork to Lanzarote". I couldn't care less. I've found my heaven on earth and I'm making the hop, skip and jump over as often as I possibly can.

DAILY EXPRESSO SEE HOST JJ ANISIOBI AND GUESTS IN NEW EPISODES MONDAY TO FRIDAY ON THE EXPRESS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

DX1ST

Aldi price and packaging correct as of 30/01/26. Prices dropped on Mamia Nappies Size 2 60 pack, 2.8p each, Pork and Gammon Joints 600g/550g, £5.82/£6.35 per kg, Specially Selected Beef Dripping Roast Potatoes 1kg, £2.39 per kg, Beef & Pork Bolognese Mince 750g, £5.99 per kg. Subject to availability. Product packaging and prices may vary in store, Scotland, Wales, Aldi Local and online. For more ways to save at Aldi, see **aldi.co.uk/amazing-savings**

Frances Millar

To be frank...

THERE'S a BBC documentary about Mary, Queen of Scots, the famously deposed monarch who spent most of her life trying to claw her way back into power. It focuses on the extraordinary letters she sent to allies while imprisoned. They were written in French and protected by a Da Vinci-esque secret code of symbols and ciphers so elaborate, it took a team of cryptologists using 21st-century software two months to crack it. A terrible pity her head was chopped off. What a waste.

Fast-forward a few centuries and royal life involves fewer beheadings but it's still brutal, in its own way. For instance, Andrew now has to make do with the cramped five-bedroom Marsh Farm in Norfolk, rather than a sprawling mansion in Windsor.

If only he had inherited his 13-times great-grandmother's intellect, he might not have dived so willingly into the steaming putrid cesspit he now can't get out of.

The latest Epstein docu-dump, a real whopper of some three million pages, landed with a thud last week. Buried among it were a series of images of Andrew on all fours crouching over a woman lying on the floor fully dressed.

He is looking up at the camera with a slack-faced naive expression, like a dog gazing at a butcher's window. The precise context of the photo is unclear.

The background is blandly posh, an unidentifiable figure is reclining on a chair bare feet propped up on a table with a pile of towels. Andrew is casually dressed, and also barefoot. Nothing overtly sinister, but the sort of detail that is unsettling even without the blessing of hindsight.

LA Dolce Vita now comes with a price tag after Rome officials brought in a €2 fee to view the Trevi Fountain. Ticket sales will raise money and thin out the scrum that flock to the landmark made famous by Federico Fellini's movie.

Around 30,000 tourists cram into the piazza every day, all ruining each other's holiday snaps and creating an atmosphere with about as much romance as a cattle auction. Locals are exempt, but they're probably too busy looking cool smoking fags and drinking coffee and riding on scooters without a helmet.

As a life-long Londoner, I'd gladly welcome it if Sadiq Khan brought in charges for non-residents to enter popular areas. It has become so unpleasantly busy in recent years, that I dread going in. Start with the entire West End, Borough Market and Hampstead Heath. Oh, and my local Aldi.

More emails were released from accounts using gobbledegook anonymous addresses presumably to keep his identity under wraps, yet in them he blabs about how brillo it is to be a royal.

One from an account named "The Duke" read: "I am just departing Scotland... I'll ring you when I get down if you can give me a number to ring Alternatively we could have dinner at Buckingham Palace and lots of privacy. A."

Mr Turing, crank up the Bombe, we got a toughie here! Naturally, the big bad wolf licked his lips "bp pleease," so eager was he to get inside the hen house he forgot how to spell.

Another email to Ghislaine Maxwell from "The Invisible Man" blathers on about spending the summer at Balmoral.

The stupidity of a man so insulated by privilege he never thought once, let alone twice about his behaviour.

And incredibly, he is still eighth in succession to the throne. For now.

★ **HEIDI Klum looked ridiculous at the Grammys waddling about the red carpet like a penguin in a solid plastic dress moulded to resemble a nude body. So she must have been furious when Chappell Roan upstaged her wearing a bit of gauze hanging on by nipple piercings and a prayer.**

BOMB disposal experts were called to a hospital in Toulouse after doctors discovered a live First World War artillery shell lodged in a patient's rectum. Oi, get your mind out of the gutter, there must be a perfectly innocent explanation. Surely, he tripped and fell because no one in their right mind would willingly use a weapon of ass destruction? (I'll get my coat.)

frances.millar@express.co.uk

Cain will be shocked to learn he has cancer

'I want to get this right for the men who are affected'

Soap actor is hoping TV drama will help save lives

Cain struggles to cope as he stands at dad Zak's grave, right. Jeff has played the role for 25 years, inset

BY **CHRISTINE SMITH**

AS Emmerdale's Cain Dingle is told tonight he has prostate cancer, legendary star Jeff Hordley admits filming the heartbreaking storyline has made him want to get a special blood test checking for warning signals for his own peace of mind.

With 64,000 new cases diagnosed in the UK a year, Jeff – who has played hardman Cain for 25 years – tells us: "This is the hardest story I have ever worked on throughout my time on Emmerdale because I want to make sure I get it right for the many men who are sadly affected."

The most commonly diagnosed cancer in the UK, predominantly in men over the age of 50, a family history of the disease also increases the risk of prostate cancer, which effects one in eight men – with the risk doubling for Black men.

Often without symptoms in the early stages, a special PSA blood test can detect abnormalities and early diagnosis means a far better survival rate.

Sobering

Jeff, 55, explains: "Prostate cancer can have such an enormous effect on both the person diagnosed and their family.

"I feel fortunate because my family has not been affected by the disease and thankfully a health check I had a few years ago, that included my prostate, was fine.

"But filming this storyline has made me realise how sobering the disease can be and how itaffects so many. It's so important if you are in a higher risk category to get tested. As soon as I have my next day off, I am going to be making an appointment with my GP to have a PSA test."

Cain, like so many men in real life, failed to take a test because he lacked any of the symptoms. But in January during the explosive Corriedale special, the fan favourite was shocked to learn he had a mass on his prostate gland after being rushed to hospital when he was shot by John Sugden.

Now, after an agonising month-long wait, Cain will be told he has cancer. It is localised but aggressive and he will require surgery. He is also warned there could be serious surgical side-effects including incontinence and erectile dysfunction.

It leaves the family man, whose wife Moira is currently locked up in prison charged with two murders she did not commit, terrified he will not be able to protect those he loves the most.

"Cain is frightened of telling anyone," says Jeff. "Everything is falling to pieces and he doesn't deal with his diagnosis at all well. He has never found it easy to talk about his feelings anyway but after learning of his diagnosis, he snaps at everyone. "He worries if he tells anyone and with Moira in prison, nobody will be around to look after their children. He is terrified he is going to die."

A very likeable actor who is worlds away from the hardman he plays, Jeff is happily married to fellow Emmerdale star Zoe Henry, 52, who has played Rhona Goskirk for 22 years.

He says: "We've been working together with Prostate Cancer UK on Cain's story and we are going to explore the enormous impact it has on everyone's lives.

"Soaps can play a hugely powerful part in raising awareness and if it encourages one man to get tested and find out they have this illness before it is too late – then that has to be a positive thing."

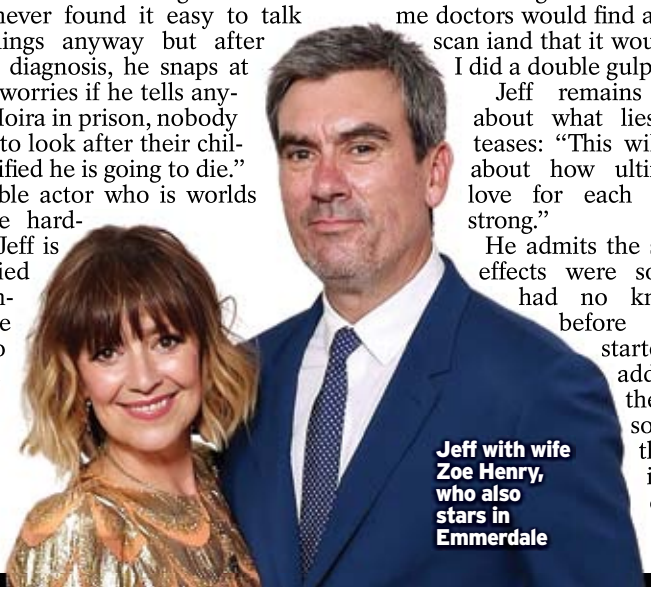
Secretly told about Cain's storyline last September, his first reaction was understandably to take a big gulp.

Fearing it might mean the end of his time in the soap, he confesses: "When I had my meeting, our producer, Laura, told me Cain was going to get shot in Corriedale. I was like 'oh gulp'. But she said, 'It's ok you will survive the shooting'. It was then she told me doctors would find a mass from a scan iand that it would be cancer. I did a double gulp."

Jeff remains tight-lipped about what lies ahead but teases: "This will be a story about how ultimately their love for each other is so strong."

He admits the surgical side-effects were something he had no knowledge of before he started filming, adding: "I found them really sobering and I think it is important we do make men aware, so they do feel more knowledgeable." It is the latest of many powerful plots he has been involved in during his stellar 25-year soap career, including discovering Cain was the illegitimate son of Zak Dingle and being diagnosed with a brain injury in 2015. Jeff confides it helps enormously that Zoe, who he has two grown-up children with, understands the pressures of a big storyline.

To unwind, they enjoy country walks near the family's home in Yorkshire. He says: "Zoe totally understands and I'm so lucky that if I have had a big day and she gets home before me, she will cook something nice."



Jeff with wife Zoe Henry, who also stars in Emmerdale

Operation

And as someone who abstains from drinking alcohol in January and February, he says a clear head helps him cope too.

Praising the entire Emmerdale cast and crew, he adds that he feels blessed to be working alongside Natalie J Robb, who plays Moira. "We've a great shorthand and it is easy to be in Cain and Moira's world when you are acting alongside Nat."

Jeff himself lives with Crohn's disease. He says: "It is a different debilitating disease to cancer. I had a big operation in my final year at drama school and since then I have mainly been ok."

He added: "I hope after watching Cain's storyline, it will encourage men to get tested. It could save their life."

● *If you have been affected by the Cain storyline, help can be sought at prostatecanceruk.org/.*

Minister fires up drive for 999 medals

Tom Curry and Sarah Jones, middle, with Sue Mitchell, front. Sue, inset, and spine injury, above

CAMPAIGNERS took their fight for a medal for injured emergency service personnel to the policing minister's office yesterday.

The Daily Express crusade Honour Our Injured 999 Heroes is backing the push led by former police inspector Tom Curry.

He is supported by a host of ex-officers, as well as former fire and ambulance crew, seeking recognition for the wounds they suffered putting their lives on the line to protect the public.

Cross-party support is swelling for a move for injured emergency service personnel to get a medal, just like colleagues do posthumously if they are killed in the line of duty.

Multiple ex-999 workers have told the Daily Express that when severely injured in action, they were often pushed into light duties and eventually asked to leave their profession.

Former Essex Police officer Sue Mitchell, 62, suffered horrific spinal injuries as a 22-year-old PC when she was run over by a robbers' getaway vehicle on the fifth day in the job.

She said: "They told me I was out of the force on Christmas Eve. I was put in front of the assistant chief constable and his words to me were, 'Why should I keep you in my force when I can have somebody 100% fit?' That really hurt."

An estimated 13,000 men and women have been forced to retire through injury from the police.

MPs voted through the motion for the Injury in Service Award in November.

But this is the first time campaigners have met Minister for Policing and Crime, Sarah Jones.

She has confirmed her support for the campaign, agreeing to take it forward through official channels. It is understood the minister will write to MPs confirming the government's commitment to reconvene in six months to review its progress.

Mr Curry, 75, founder of the 999 Injured and Forgotten campaign, said: "It was very encouraging.

"She was patient and listened, and she is fully on board. She has seen the Daily Express coverage and I showed her the three front pages."

EXCLUSIVE

BY **RICHARD ASHMORE**

EXPRESS CRUSADE

HONOUR OUR INJURED 999 HEROES

FREE BOTTLE OF COKE

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We've teamed up to offer you the chance to grab a classic drink for free in any TGJones store (formerly WH Smith High Street).

For a limited time only, you can get a free 500ml bottle of Coca-Cola Classic, Diet Coke or Coca-Cola Zero worth up to £2.20 completely free, when you use this voucher in your local store. Simply pick your drink, hand over the voucher at checkout, and enjoy your refreshing freebie.

Pop into TGJones before Friday February 6, 2026 to claim your complimentary treat.

FREE 500ML BOTTLE OF COKE AT TGJones

Offer valid until store close on Friday February 6, 2026

Free Coke (500ml) promotion is subject to availability. Offer applies to Coca-Cola (500ml), Diet Coke (500ml) and Coke Zero (500ml). One free bottle of Coke per transaction and per voucher. Subject to availability. No cash alternative. The voucher is not transferable. TGJones reserves the right to reject any voucher it deems, in its sole discretion, to have been forged, defaced or otherwise tampered with. Valid in TGJones Stores Only (formerly WH Smith High Street Stores). Offer valid from Saturday January 31, to Friday February 6, 2026 only.

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Two men are killed as light aircraft crashes near lake

BY **IZZIE ADDISON**

TWO men were killed when their light aircraft crashed on farmland yesterday morning.

The private plane, a Cirrus SR20, took off from Birmingham Airport's XLR Executive Jet Centre just before 10am and crashed shortly after 11am near Hollingworth Lake, in Littleborough, near Rochdale.

Fire engines, police and ambulance vehicles were called to the crash site and the Air Accidents Investigation Branch also attended.

Greater Manchester Police last night confirmed that the two men on board lost their lives. Formal identification was still pending.

Chief Supt Danny Inglis said: "This is a devastating incident and our thoughts are with their families and friends."

The US-made craft was fitted with a parachute system that deploys in emergencies. A yellow parachute was seen wrapped around an electricity pylon. A witness said it was deployed shortly before the aircraft hit the ground.

Parachute wrapped around a pylon near Littleborough

Pictures: MATT WINKELMEYER/GETTY

Sick baby born after mum 'hit by ebike rider'

BY **BEN MITCHELL**

A 13-YEAR-OLD boy has been arrested after an e-bike hit a pregnant woman, who then gave birth to a seriously ill baby.

The crash happened in Poole, Dorset, at 3.50pm on Monday last week.

The woman, who is in her 30s, was taken to hospital for treatment where her baby was then born.

The infant was still in a serious condition last night.

Dorset Police said: "Following inquiries, a 13-year-old boy from Poole has been arrested on suspicion of a driving offence. He remains in police custody."

Appealing for help from witnesses, Sergeant Dan Yates said: "Our investigation is continuing and we have now made an arrest as part of our inquiries.

"I would like to thank the public who came forward and provided information to help with our investigation.

"We are still appealing for anyone with information in relation to this incident, who has not already spoken to police, to please get in touch."

Describing the crash, a force spokesman said: "At around 3.50pm on Monday, January 26, 2026, a collision occurred involving an e-bike and a pedestrian in Herbert Avenue, near the junction with Manor Avenue.

"It was reported the rider of the e-bike failed to stop at the scene."

Fourth man on flytip rap

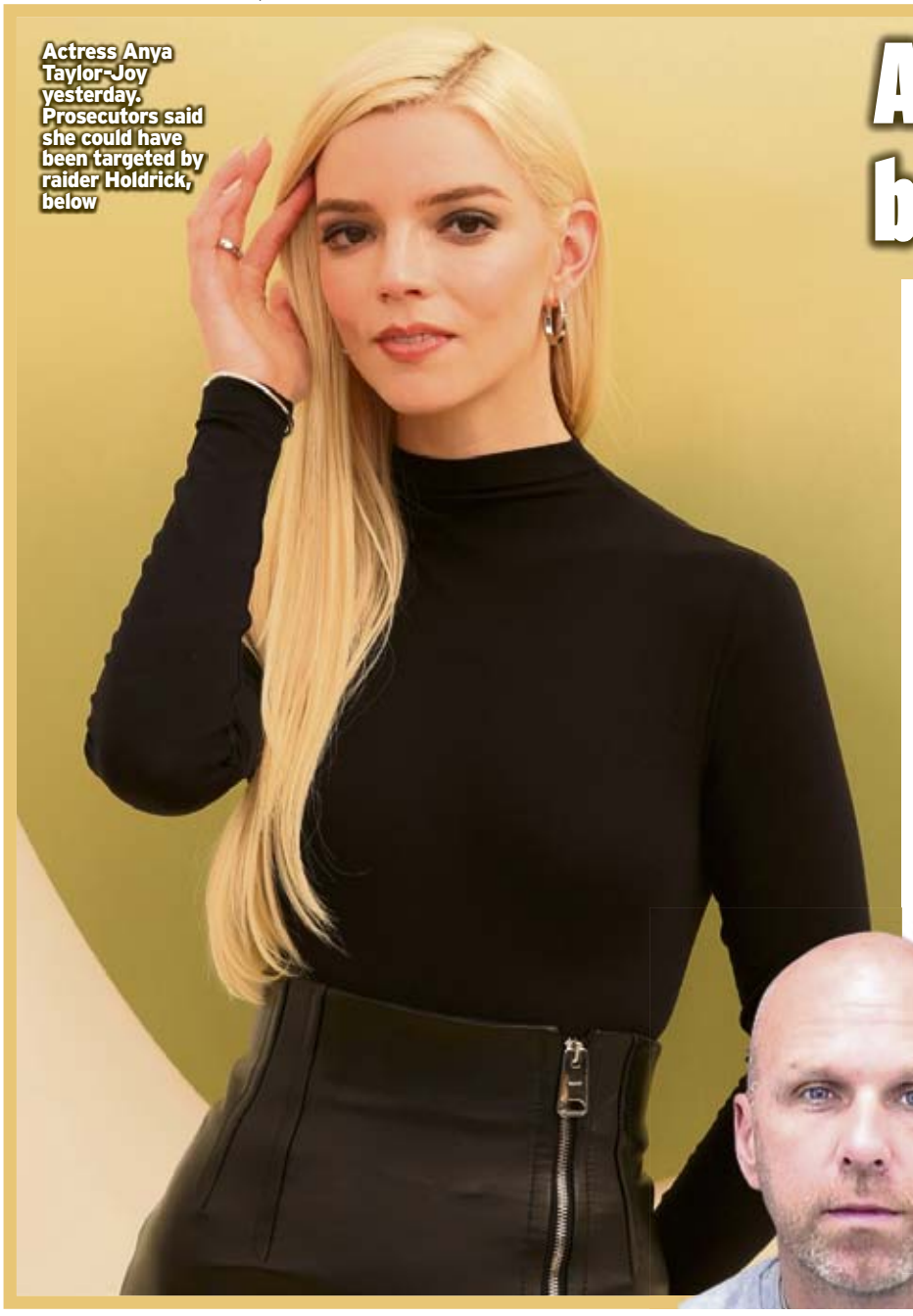
BY **REBECCA SPEARE-COLE**

A FOURTH man has been held in connection with a huge illegal waste tip near the River Cherwell in Oxfordshire.

The 150m-long flytip in Kidlington was declared a "critical incident" by the Environment Agency, amid fears of pollution into the river.

The watchdog said a 52-year-old male, from Ashford, in Surrey, was arrested on Monday and released on bail.

Emma Viner, of the National Environmental Crime Unit, said: "This further arrest will be key in collecting evidence and delivering justice for local residents."



Actress Anya Taylor-Joy yesterday. Prosecutors said she could have been targeted by raider Holdrick, below

Anya barricaded in bedroom during raid

HOLLYWOOD star Anya Taylor-Joy and her rock star husband barricaded themselves inside a bedroom during an armed robbery that may have been targeted specifically at the couple, a court has heard.

Kirk Holdrick, 43, was one of two masked men who smashed their way into the luxury property in London where the couple were staying in February 2023.

The actress's husband, Malcolm McRae, barricaded himself and his wife in a bedroom, armed only with a lamp, as Holdrick and his accomplice attempted to prise open the door with a crowbar.

Malcolm shouted: "I have a gun", and the intruders fled empty-handed, Wood Green crown court was told.

The Queen's Gambit star Anya, 29, appeared on the Baftas red carpet a week later.

Prosecutors claimed the fact the burglars tried to get into the bedroom, rather than just stealing expensive items, suggested they meant to target the celebrity occupants personally.

Nine days later Holdrick and accomplice Ashley Fulton, disguised as police officers, raided a home in affluent Sandbanks, Dorset, where a woman and her daughter were held at gunpoint, tied up and threatened with violence.

BY **TRISTAN KIRK**

Holdrick, from Borehamwood, Herts, was jailed for life in 2005 for armed robberies on a security van, and was recalled to prison to continue serving his life term after his latest offences.

DNA

Last November he was jailed for 12 years for the Sandbanks robbery, and has now been handed a further three years for the burglary involving Anya.

He initially denied it, claiming his DNA was only found at the house because he had attended a party there previously.

But he later pleaded guilty.

His lawyers at first tried to convince the Crown Prosecution Service to drop the charge since he is already serving a life sentence and had admitted the Sandbanks offences.

But the CPS continued the case, arguing that the London burglary may have been part of an escalating pattern.

Crown Princess' son denies 4 rape charges

THE son of Norway's Crown Princess has pleaded not guilty to rape charges as he appeared in court on trial for multiple offences.

Marius Borg Hoiby, 29, is facing 38 charges, including rape, sexual assault and bodily harm, with the newest counts added on Sunday when he was arrested for alleged assault, threats with a knife and violation of a restraining order.

He is the eldest son of Crown Princess Mette-Marit from a previous relationship, and is step-son of the heir to the throne, Crown Prince Haakon. Hoiby has no royal title or official duties.

Hoiby stood for 24 minutes while prosecutor Sturla Henriksbo read out the 38 counts against him at the Oslo district court, asking him if he was pleading guilty.

He replied "no" to each of the most serious charges, including four counts of rape.

But he pleaded guilty to several driving offences, to an aggravated drugs offence and breaking a restraining order, and "partly" to threats and aggravated assault.

Hoiby could face up to 10 years in prison if convicted in the trial, which is scheduled to last until March 19. Seven alleged victims are expected to give evidence and some testimony will be in private.

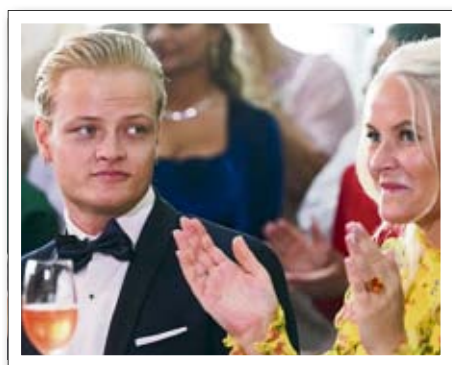
BY **REBECCA RUSSELL**
Deputy Royal Editor

Mr Henriksbo told the court: "The defendant is the son of the crown princess. He is part of the Royal Family. He shall nevertheless be treated in the same way as any other person who is charged with the same offences."

Threats

Hoiby's defence team has said he "denies all charges of sexual abuse, as well as the majority of the charges regarding violence".

The indictment cites four alleged rapes between 2018 and November 2024, alleged violence and threats against a former partner between the summer of 2022 and the autumn of 2023, and two alleged acts of violence against another partner, along with violations of a restraining order.



Hoiby's charges also include abuse in a close relationship against one former partner, violence against another and transporting 3.5kg of marijuana.

Others include making death threats and traffic violations.

He was arrested on Sunday for assault, threats with a knife and violation of a restraining order. Yesterday, the Oslo court granted a request to keep him in detention.

Hoiby's trial is opening just as his mother faces renewed scrutiny over her past contacts with paedophile Jeffrey Epstein.

Accused Marius Borg Hoiby, 29, and sitting next to his mother, Norwegian Crown Princess Mette-Marit

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DX1ST

SCENES OF BEATLEMANIA

Cheering fans welcome the Beatles in New York City for their 1964 tour

Extras play screaming fans outside New York's Plaza Hotel as Beatlemania was recreated in London

Police struggle to keep frantic teenagers at bay as the Beatles arrive at their hotel for their legendary appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show. The scenes were shot for the new four-film anthology

Pictures: CLICK NEWS AND MEDIA

Ringo (Barry Keoghan) is mobbed by fans in scene from new anthology Right, Harris Dickinson as John Lennon

Get back...to where they once belonged

BY **JAMIE ROBERTS**

A DAY In The Life of the Beatles has been recreated in London – and a rather frenetic one at that.

In a first look at clips from a forthcoming movie anthology, a street in the capital doubled as New York in 1964 when the Fab Four made their groundbreaking appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show, and were mobbed at their hotel.

Dozens of extras played hysterical fans as they attempt to get past the gauntlet of police officers, in scenes shot at 5am.

The Beatles: A Four-Film Cinematic Event features four movies that will be released simultaneously in 2028, each taking the perspective of one band member. They will follow each musician's rise from the streets of Liverpool to world domination, and the subsequent demise of the group in 1970.

Anthology

The films star Paul Mescal as Paul McCartney, Harris Dickinson as John Lennon, Joseph Quinn as George Harrison and Barry Keoghan as Ringo Starr. After similar biopics about Elvis Presley and Amy Winehouse, fans had been desperate for a Beatles production and the anthology, directed by Sam Mendes, marks the first time that surviving Beatles McCartney and Starr, as well as Lennon and Harrison's families, have given the rights to feature films about them.

Aimee Lou Wood will play Harrison's wife Pattie Boyd, with Saoirse Ronan cast as Linda McCartney.

Yoko Ono will be portrayed by Anna Sawai, while Mia McKenna-Bruce will play Maureen Cox, Starr's wife.

THE BEATLES 1964

The Beatles arrive at New York's Kennedy Airport for the first time from London for a 10-day tour on February 7, 1964

WHY DO SOME PEOPLE LOVE MONDAYS?

Christine would tell you that at work, she found a place where she could regain a sense of normality and strength to face cancer.

Continuing to work helped Jim keep a daily rhythm, preserve his identity, and see life beyond illness.

At home, Eva had the care of her extraordinary family, and at work she had the support of her team, without having to take on the extra role of reassuring them.

For Manda, a primary school teacher, work was an escape, because when you work with kids you can't think about anything else, not even cancer, otherwise you risk getting hit in the face with a plastic brick.

And they are not alone: Keith, Greer, Marygrace...

In fact, the vast majority of people who continue working during treatment say that work helps them cope. Every experience is different, but continuing to work can provide an important sense of identity, stability, and well-being.

New research highlights a link between work and cancer recovery.
So let's make work a better place for healing.

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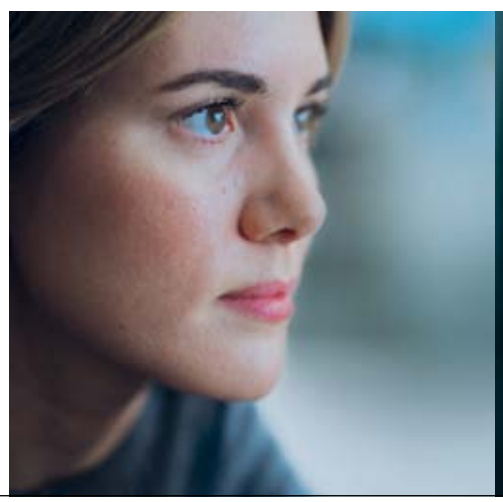
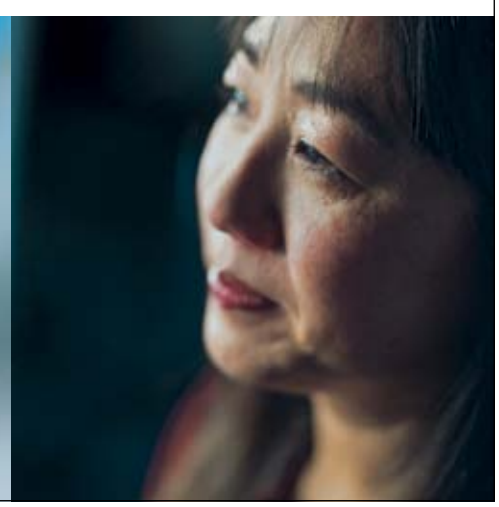




‘I’m envious of Fiona Bruce...I’d love to do Antiques Roadshow and Fake Or Fortune’

BY **NICOLA METHVEN**

VALERIE Singleton wishes her TV career was more like Fiona Bruce’s, despite being a legend of the screen herself. The broadcaster, 88, confessed: “I’m so envious of her. I’d love to do Antiques Roadshow and Fake or Fortune?.”

Valerie got her first BBC job as a continuity announcer in 1961 and within a year had become a household name on children’s show Blue Peter, with John Noakes and Peter Purves.

The trio proved a huge success with young viewers and when she left in 1975, Valerie was snapped up for the BBC current affairs show Nationwide. In 1978, she became a presenter on news programme Tonight.

Two years later she was offered a presenting job on The Money Programme and stayed for eight years, though she now jokes: “Thinking back on it, I am not very good at maths so it was probably the daftest programme to accept.” She also joined Radio 4’s PM, where she remained for almost 11 years until 1992.

But seeing how Fiona, 61, has been able to branch out into different types of programming across BBC departments, Valerie now wishes she had done the same. She says: “I stayed in current affairs and I think I would quite like to have moved to general features.”

Of Fake or Fortune?, she adds: “I did an art course at one time learning about the history of art and I would love to have done that.”

Speaking on The Peter Purves Podcast, Valerie also recalled interviewees from Princess Anne and Tony Blair to Tina Turner and ABBA. But she admits her encounter with David Bowie was not her finest moment. She explains: “I got back that night and said to a boyfriend, ‘What do you think?’ and he said ‘I think it came across that you didn’t know his music very well. But he was sort of OK about it’.”

Enjoyable

Valerie, from Hitchin, Herts, took dance classes to a high level as a child and then moved into acting, studying at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art for two years before appearing in 1959 BBC sitcom The Adventures of Brigadier Wellington-Bull.

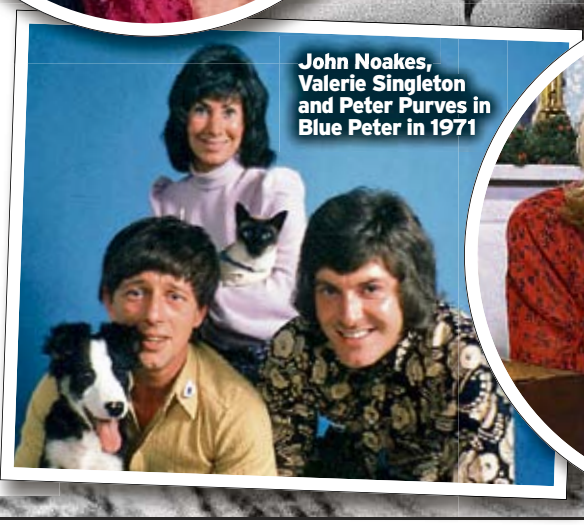
She has never married or had children but did have a relationship with the actor Albert Finney and once let slip that she had a one-night stand with podcast host Purves himself. Calling the fling “impulsive and enjoyable”, she said in 2008 they had both been single.

But she said: “Sleeping with people you work with is generally not advisable, so we didn’t want to pursue it.”

Valerie also told how she feared she had committed a faux pas when she accompanied Princess Anne on a Kenyan safari in 1971. She recalled of an airport scene: “All the press were waiting...the cameras swung around as we climbed up the flight of stairs [to the plane] and at the door I said, ‘Ma’am I think they’d like us to turn and wave’ and I raised my hand and waved.

“And for a couple of moments the princess didn’t wave and then she did, and I remember thinking, ‘Oh dear’. And sure enough when we were in Nairobi, there were the Sunday papers, and Val is waving and the princess isn’t waving and it says, ‘Valerie Singleton takes over the royal gesture of farewell’. But the mistake soon blew over. We had a very good time.”

Valerie on Blue Peter in 1967 with Valentine, a three-week-old lion cub. Below, Valerie now



John Noakes, Valerie Singleton and Peter Purves in Blue Peter in 1971

Fiona Bruce with her childhood doll for the Antiques Roadshow Toys and Childhood special

Princess Anne with Blue Peter dog Petra, Peter and Valerie, also in 1971

Picture: OWEN HUMPHREYS/PA

Radar heroine Molly has high old time at 103

Molly jokes with serving airmen from RAF Cranwell at her party. Below, Molly, centre, in her RAF days

BY **GILES SHELDRICK** Chief Reporter

WARTIME radar heroine Molly Gillon didn't see this one coming...a surprise birthday spectacular to celebrate turning 103.

The RAF veteran, who signed up after the death of her airman brother, was given a special salute by serving personnel and veterans at her Newcastle care home.

Molly, one of 14 children, lost her RAF hero brother Tom Conway during the Second World War when he was shot down and killed aged 23 by enemy aircraft.

As soon as she turned 18 she was called up to serve at RAF Northstead where she worked underground following radar signals to detect enemy aircraft – and guiding RAF crews safely back to Northumberland after nighttime sorties across Germany.

'I felt as though I was doing some good, bringing aircraft back from raids'

Molly said: "I felt as though I was doing something good, bringing the aircraft back from bombing raids with the radar."

It was while stationed there she met her future husband George – known as Geordie – and they were married until his death aged 47.

Her son Paul, 66, only got to know the details of her wartime service while secretly preparing her party.

He said: "She kept it to herself. Mum joined when she was 18 after her brother was shot down in Egypt some months before.

"She was going to work in a munitions factory but she joined the RAF instead." Molly was born when Stanley Baldwin was prime minister, and in a year when a pint of beer cost 5 pence, a pint of milk was 3 pence, and one pound of beef was 5.5 pence.

Yesterday friends, family, and serving members of the RAF joined the great grandmother, who wore a tiara for the occasion, for a gala tea at Eastside Gardens care home in Wallsend, Tyne and Wear.

Christopher Lloyd-James, chairman of the Newcastle and Gateshead Royal Air Force Association, said: "If it wasn't for Molly, we would have lost far more boys than we did.

"As a radar operator she would have been under a tremendous amount of emotional strain because she would have seen the number of men going out and the number coming back."

Caroline Rowley, who works at the care home, said: "Molly never remarried but she's been surrounded by family and friends.

"She's now a great-grandmother and it was wonderful they all turned out in force to mark her birthday.

"She's a wonderful lady who has led an extraordinary life. We're hugely privileged to know her and to care for her.

"It was an honour to help mark such a special birthday and recognise her contribution during the war."

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Railway boss sues for £1m after losing leg in Covid

BY **RICHARD GITTINS**

A RAILWAY station manager who lost a leg after being hospitalised with Covid is suing for £1million, claiming he was infected by his boss.

David Gibson was put in a coma in hospital and ended up having his leg amputated below the knee due to a blood clot.

He claims that he was infected during an office catch-up followed by breakfast with area manager Danny Hackett in July 2021.

At the time, England had 3ft social distancing and isolation of close contacts of a Covid case.

As manager of Herne Hill station in South London, Mr Gibson was classed as a key worker and expected to go in while avoiding close contact with others.

The policy of his employer, Southeastern, was that symptomatic staff should stay home.

All staff were told to follow social distancing guidance and not to congregate in offices.

Mr Gibson, who had worked for Southeastern since 2018, was asked to visit Mr Hackett at

Southeastern is being sued

Bromley South station where he found himself in an 8ft by 16ft office with Mr Hackett and two others, according to documents lodged with the High Court.

His barrister claimed that under the firm's policy only two people should have been in that room at one time.

Mr Hackett then asked them all to breakfast, and Mr Gibson said his host was coughing during the meal and when they returned to his office, before testing positive the next day.

The barrister said Mr Hackett had "negligently attended work in the knowledge that he was not feeling well".

But Southestern denied Mr Hackett had any symptoms that he was reasonably expected to associate with Covid that day.

The case will go to trial unless the parties can reach a settlement.

Jacob Fallows races through a puddle with his walker as he runs three miles a day

Mini 'Captain Tom' runs 100 miles to raise £1K for school

BY **ELIZABETH HUNTER**

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD boy has done a mini "Captain Tom" by running 100 miles to raise money for his school.

Jacob Fallows, who has cerebral palsy, ran laps of his school playground throughout last month.

He did it with other schoolchildren and his family to raise £1,180 – exceeding their goal of £1,000.

Jacob ran around three miles a day, in all weathers, supported by his walking frame.

And he and the other runners ran a collective distance of 766 miles – roughly the equivalent of running from John O'Groats to Calais.

He was inspired by his dad Lee, who did a charity run three years ago and each year since, and the family banded together to support the local cause.

Lee said: "We enjoy raising money for good causes and that's the primary thing.

Trips

"It's also demonstrating that our little boy might well be disabled and there are things that he can't do. But there's a huge amount of things he can do. One of those is bringing people together."

The family's first fundraisers in 2024 and 2025 raised cash for Branch House, a charity that has supported Jacob throughout his life.

As he turned four and started primary school in his hometown of Bow, Devon, the family were keen to raise money for school trips and equipment.

Lee added: "Jacob started primary school in September, so he's midway through his reception year. We spoke to the school and asked if there was anything we could do.

"They'd asked that we potentially raise money for the Friends of Bow School. They support enrichment activities and the provision of equipment – so school trips, the supplementary stuff that makes school more engaging. We started on the 1st of January and ended on the 31st."

● ***To help Jacob's fundraiser, go to justgiving.com/team/fallows-family-fundraiser-2026***

Diabetes drug discovery in fight to treat sight loss

AN everyday diabetes drug could treat the most common cause of blindness, scientists have discovered.

Age-related macular degeneration is a leading cause of vision loss in the over-50s, damaging the macula – a small area in the centre of the retina at the back of the eye responsible for sharp and central vision.

The condition has been highlighted by sufferer Dame Judi Dench.

Researchers from the University of Liverpool have found that taking metformin was associated with less progression of AMD.

People with diabetes over the age of 55 and taking the drug were 37% less likely to develop the intermediate stage of AMD over a five-year period compared with those not taking the drug.

Dr Nick Beare, an eye doctor who

BY **CHRIS RICHES**

led the research, said: "Most people who suffer from AMD have no treatment, so this is a great breakthrough in our search for new treatments.

"What we need to do now is test metformin as a treatment for AMD in a clinical trial.

"Metformin has the potential to save many people's sight."

AMD eventually causes the light-sensitive tissue to die off – geographic atrophy, a form of "dry AMD" – or be damaged by abnormal blood vessel growth, "wet AMD".

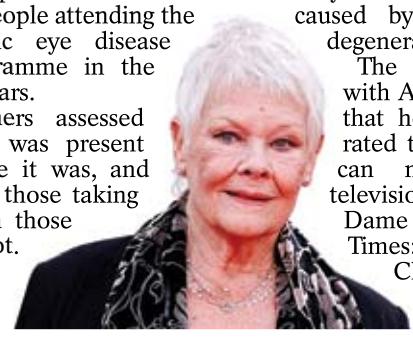
Intermediate and advanced AMD affects 10-15% of people over 65 – 1.1 to 1.8 million people in the UK – and is the most common cause of blindness in Western countries.

The annual cost of the condition is estimated to be £11.1billion in the UK alone.

Geographic atrophy has no treatment in the UK and Europe, while treatments for wet AMD are expensive and unpleasant – such as repeated injections into the eye.

The study from the University of Liverpool used pictures taken of the eyes of 2,000 people attending the routine diabetic eye disease screening programme in the city over five years.

The researchers assessed whether AMD was present and how severe it was, and then compared those taking metformin with those who were not.



Dame Judi Dench has condition

They also adjusted for factors which might bias the result such as age, sex, and the duration of diabetes.

A potential benefit from metformin in AMD has been suspected before but this is the first study to grade it from eye photos.

Acting legend Dame Judi, 91, recently described her sight decline caused by age-related macular degeneration as "crushing".

The star, first diagnosed with AMD in 2012, revealed that her vision has deteriorated to the point where she can no longer see the television.

Dame Judi told the Radio Times: "Well, I miss seeing Clive Myrie doing Mastermind but I can hear the questions."

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Trustpilot

EXCLUSIVE

By Peter Sheridan in Los Angeles

SINNER or saint: which Michael Jackson will you believe? The disgraced singer who allegedly orchestrated a cover-up of his years sexually abusing children – according to a four-part Channel 4 documentary that debuts tonight – or the pop icon whose singular voice, song-writing genius and dazzling dance moves dominated the global music scene for more than three decades, as seen in the £113million movie Michael coming to UK cinemas in April?

The entertainer, whose hits included Billie Jean, Beat It and Bad, died in 2009 aged 50, striving to revive a career nearly destroyed by paedophilia allegations, after confessing that he shared his bed – innocently, he claimed – with innumerable young children.

But you wouldn't know that by looking at the film trailer, unveiled this week. The movie follows his rise from the Jackson Five to worldwide superstardom, featuring his classic songs, famed moonwalk and legendary Thriller dance routine.

The trailer spearheads a £36m marketing and advertising campaign that aims to restore Jackson's tarnished reputation, notably avoiding all mention of the paedophilia allegations that led him to the brink of suicide.

The film, produced by the singer's estate, hopes to rehabilitate his image for a new generation of fans. But it arrives mired in controversy.

It has been branded "a complete whitewash" by Dan Reed, director of the acclaimed documentary Finding Neverland, which highlighted the abuse allegedly suffered by Jackson's child sex victims. The singer's former publicist, Vincent Amen, says: "I believe there was a cover-up for so many years."

Jackson's British former bodyguard and longtime friend Matt Fiddes says: "You can't just airbrush out this part of his life."

Even Jackson's own daughter, Paris, 27, has distanced herself from the movie, complaining on Instagram that producers ignored her script notes about "what was dishonest/didn't sit right" with her. She warned filmmakers: "Don't be telling people I was 'helpful' on the set of a movie I had 0% involvement in."

Jackson at the height of his fame in 1993; below, MJ the Musical remains a big draw

THE C4 documentary series, Michael Jackson: The Trial, revisits the 14-week California courtroom drama that ended in Jackson's acquittal for child abuse, though it forever stained his reputation. Jackson's voice can be heard in the series confessing his disturbing infatuation with children.

"I have seen children just shower all over me with love," he says in a recorded private conversation with confidant and spiritual adviser Rabbi Shmuley Boteach barely five years before his 2005 molestation trial.

"They wanna touch me and hug me… And I want to be a friend. Sometimes it gets me into trouble…

THE TWO SIDES OF MICHAEL JACKSON

A Channel 4 documentary tonight lays out the case that the King of Pop was a dangerous child abuser. While later this year, a £113million film will celebrate his enduring cultural impact as a beloved entertainer. But which one is his true face?

Gavin Arvizo, with mum Janet, accused Jackson, right in police mugshot, of giving him booze and showing him porn at 13

[But] there's nothing purer or more spiritual than children. If you told me right now that, 'Michael, you could never see another child,' I'd kill myself… because I have nothing else to live for."

The documentary features previously unseen footage of Jackson alone with 13-year-old cancer survivor Gavin Arvizo, who in 2003 accused the singer of giving him alcohol and showing him pornography, sparking the singer's arrest and trial.

Publicist Amen claims to have found among Jackson's belongings a naturist magazine containing advertisements for videos of naked children that were marked: "To be ordered."

Even 15 years after his death, Jackson continues to be haunted by child abuse allegations. The singer's longtime publicist Frank Cascio and his four siblings are still pursuing their own sexual abuse lawsuit against Jackson's estate, claiming they were groomed, manipulated and molested in "hundreds of instances" over decades.

Having previously defended Jackson, they went to court last month seeking to void an earlier financial settlement with his estate, which they branded an unlawful attempt to silence child sex abuse victims.

Throughout his life Jackson vehemently denied all allegations of sexual abuse, and his estate claims that the Cascio family is trying to extort it into paying more than $200m.

Jackson's estate also faces ongoing litigation from two alleged child sex victims, Wade Robson, now aged 43, and James Safechuck, 47, who were the subject of the 2019 documentary Leaving Neverland. Yet the coming feature film – simply titled Michael – hopes to rebrand and revitalise Jackson's music and highly lucrative legacy.

When he died from an overdose of the anaesthetic Propofol he used to battle insomnia, Jackson was £400m in debt, according to court documents. After his trial many radio stations stopped playing his music, and the sale of his music rights for film, television and commercials dried up. He had squandered his fortune on art, furniture, travel and gifts, and struggled to pay the £24m annual interest on his debt.

Desperate for cash, Jackson had planned a 50-date residency at London's O2 arena and was weeks from its opening when he died.

Yet steered by Jackson's manager John Branca, who is one of the producers of the new movie, the singer's estate was slowly turned to profitability. His music returned to popular culture, and fans have ignored the paedophilia accusations to make global hits of stage shows featuring his songs: Thriller – Live, and MJ the Musical. His music catalogue was valued at £940million by 2024, and Jackson has some 60 million monthly Spotify listeners. The movie will only send those figures soaring.

Starring the gloved-one's nephew Jaafar Jackson, aged 29, the son of Michael's brother Jermaine, the film promises to be a sanitised hagiography of the singer from Gary, Indiana, who rose to become a Motown Records star, created the bestselling album in history with 1982's Thriller, had 13 US chart-topping hits, and Top Ten singles in each of six decades.

The trailer presents an adoring array of Jackson concert performances, while onscreen titles urge: "Experience his genius. ... Discover his legacy."

Colman Domingo, portraying patriarch Joe Jackson in the film, spells out his game plan, which the movie evidently lives by. "We need to capitalise on Michael's success," he says. "Because the Jackson family is the brand. That's our 'Coca-Cola'. And we need to start selling it."

There is no question that the movie is selling Jackson's glory days, with loving looks at his red-leather Thriller jacket and his silver sequinned glove. "You're the greatest of all time," he assures himself.

Yet the film's journey to the screen has been marred with controversy, multiple delays and reshoots. Michael was supposed to open in April 2025, including a third act that dismissed as extortion the earliest child sex abuse allegations by 13-year-old Jordan Chandler in 1993.

JACKSON was to be portrayed "as the naive victim of the money-grabbing Chandlers", reveals Hollywood writer Matt Belloni, who read the original script, which included a scene with Jordan's father threatening to destroy the singer's career.

That scene is gone, along with the final third of the film which had to be largely scrapped, necessitating 22 days of costly reshoots, when producers belatedly learned a $20m settlement with Chandler's family prohibited them from dramatising or depicting his story in any medium.

The film's release was pushed back six months, and then another six, leading to its coming belated release on April 24.

Don't expect to see it touch upon Jackson's ill-fated union with Elvis Presley's daughter Lisa Marie, either. She realised their marriage was over when the singer said he wanted his cosmetologist's nursing assistant Debbie Rowe to have his baby.

Three months after parting from Lisa Marie in 1996, Jackson married Rowe, who delivered son Prince, 28, and Paris. They divorced in 2000, and Jackson's son 'Blanket' – now 'Bigi', 23 – was born by surrogacy.

Discussions are under way for a sequel, presenting the later years of his life. But that doubtless depends on whether the film is a box office smash and can generate enough revenue to warrant a look at the more troubled, painkiller-addicted, scandal-plagued years of Jackson's life.

Paris Jackson went on to critique "sugar-coated" movie biopics, which she believes feature "a lot of inaccuracy and there's a lot of just full-blown lies."

But her father's die-hard fans, who prefer to maintain the illusion of Jackson's mythology, may approve of the movie. Says Paris: "A big section of the film panders to a very specific sector of my dad's fandom that still lives in the fantasy, and they're gonna be happy with it." Until then, the documentary will not let fans forget the fallen King of Pop's darker side.

● *Michael Jackson: The Trial debuts tonight on Channel 4, 9pm.*

Simply the

A lynx plays with its prey in Spain in this picture taken by Josef Stefan

Baby lion-tailed macaque and mum snapped in India by Lalith Ekanayake

Tired of trekking north, a family of polar bears take a nap in Canada's Hudson Bay

beast

Wildlife pic shortlist is unveiled for public vote

BY **EMILY BEAMENT**

A SNOOZY mum and her cubs are polar bearing up despite the heat in this spectacular image on the shortlist of Wildlife Photographer of the Year's public vote.

The snap, by Christopher Paetkau, was taken as the family of bears made its way to the cooler north along Hudson Bay in Canada.

It, and the other photos seen here, are among 24 selected for the Nuveen People's Choice Award.

The prestigious competition lets people across the world pick their favourite after the main event is over.

Official judges chose Wim van den Heever as Wildlife Photographer of the Year back in October for his shot of a rare brown hyena.

Voting for the people's choice award starts today, online and at the Natural History Museum.

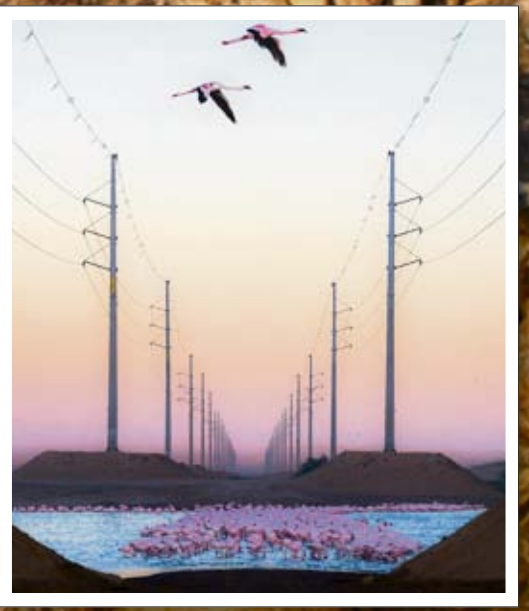
Photos include a crab hitching a ride on a jellyfish in Indonesia by Chris Gug and a superpod of dolphins in Costa Rica by Cecile Gabillon, *both left*.

The winner will be announced on March 25.

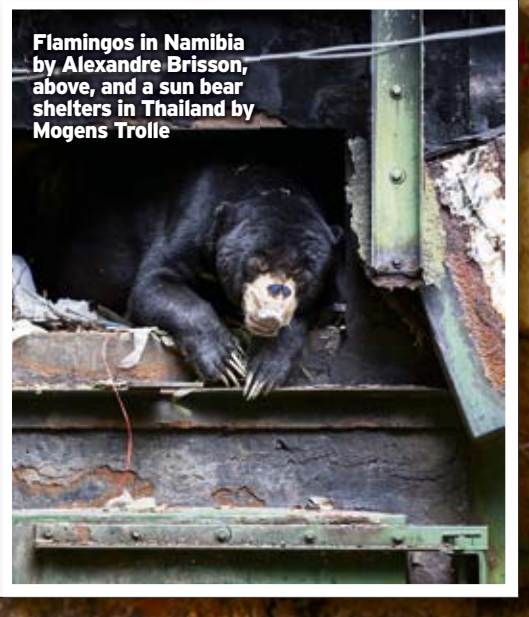
To see all the images and vote for your favourite go to www.nhm.ac.uk/wpy/peoples-choice

Tiny sloth sleeps in mum's arms in Costa Rica, by Dvir Barkay

Cuckoo snacks on a cicada, also in Costa Rica, by Lior Berman



Beak-to-beak, a sarus crane and its one-week-old chick in Thailand. Taken by Ponlawat Thaipinnarong



Flamingos in Namibia by Alexandre Brisson, above, and a sun bear shelters in Thailand by Mogens Trolle

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge. For the very young or arithmetically rusty, you have 30 seconds for the BEGINNER task.

For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

YOUR ANSWERS

Beginner	75	÷5	-9	x9	+24	÷6	REVERSE THE DIGITS	+38	÷3	
Intermediate	11	SQUARE IT	-46	3/5 OF THIS	+186	÷7	-18	INCREASE BY 80%	x11	
Advanced	542	-267	INCREASE BY 80%	+44	3/7 OF THIS	+162	2/3 OF THIS	-86	÷8	

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3
EUROMILLIONS
26 27 28 34 37 4 9
THUNDERBALL
2 15 20 26 30 14

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2
SET FOR LIFE 2 6 31 39 42 5

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31
LOTTERY 7 8 17 25 37 40 11
THUNDERBALL 2 11 14 27 39 1

THE HEALTH LOTTERY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3
1 6 13 22 49 27

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2
8 9 11 44 48 42

The Health Lottery has raised more than £135m for health-related causes since 2011. Details at thehealthlotteryfoundation.org.uk

PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Monday:
Should councils be paying for social care for asylum seekers?

YES: 3%
NO: 97%

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SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9

5	1	7		2				3
		3	1				2	
2					4	9		
	3		8					
	6	1		4		3	8	5
8				3	5		9	
1		8	4					2
	2		6		1	8		
		9		8		4	3	1

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5	1	7	6	8	4	9	3	2
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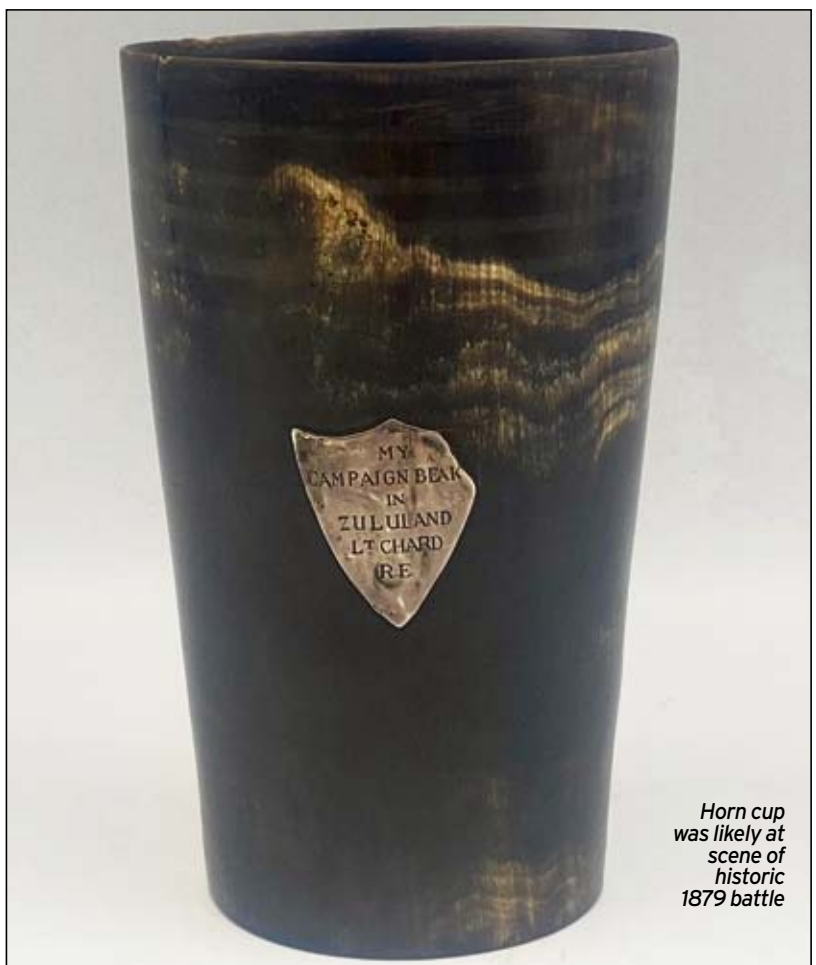

Horn cup was likely at scene of historic 1879 battle

Drink in the history...Rorke's Drift hero's beaker for sale

BY **ADAM DUTTON**

A HORN beaker believed to have belonged to the hero commander at Rorke's Drift is tipped to sell for more than £1,000.

Evidence suggests the cup was owned by Victoria Cross hero Lieutenant John Chard, 31 – played by Stanley Baker in 1964 movie Zulu – and may have been at the 1879 stand-off.

Lt Chard, *right*, led the 150-strong British garrison to victory against 4,000 Zulus.

The cup bears a plaque saying: "My campaign beaker in Zululand, Lt Chard R.E." It will be auctioned at Hanson's Derby on February 25.

Boz shows off his knurr-and-spell skills. Right, all the kit worthy of a champion's trophy

Long-lost sport back for a replay

Give knurr-and-spell a bash

BY **VICTORIA FINAN**

BOZ Davison is going out to bat for long-lost pub game knurr-and-spell.

The sport was played in pubs across South Yorkshire and Lancashire but vanished in the 1970s.

Players use a sprung trap – the spell – to launch the knurr, a ball, then thwack it with a special stick.

The winner is the person who can hit the knurr furthest.

Boz, *inset*, from Crane Moor, near Barnsley, said: "I came across a book with some pictures of knurr-and-spell from 1933.

"It was described as a defunct game. Well, that was like a red rag to a bull, so I started to look at how to make some of the equipment to bring it back."

He has relaxed the rules on the sticks for his revival. Boz said: "I think the game packed in because it was so elitist.

"You had to have certain equipment and someone who could make the sticks. They are a nightmare. Trying to make them would take at least a week and the techniques have all gone. So we let anybody use anything within reason.

"We wouldn't let someone use a tennis bat but we are allowing hurling and hockey sticks. Years ago, people used to walk around with a walking stick practising. All that has gone."

He has hosted four formal matches to date, drawing stars from knurr-and-spell's last revival, including 1969 world champion Eric Wilson.

Boz said: "They think it is great that it's coming back."

He has also taken his kit to fun days and fetes, and hopes to set up games in Lancs – which played slightly differently – to reignite the Roses rivalry.

And this being 2026, Boz has taken out full public liability insurance.

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- **SATURDAY** TRAVEL, GARDENING & FOOD
- **SUNDAY** TRAVEL, GARDENING & REVIEWS

YOUR MONEY

Edited by **HARVEY JONES**

Pack up your troubles and be stress free

As we shiver through the season, the promise of some holiday sun is more tempting than ever. But make sure you buy the right travel insurance to protect your family and your money...

MONEY

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PLUS Puzzles

NIFTY SHADES
Keep the holiday memories happy

As the grey winter clings on, many of us will be dreaming of escaping to sunnier places, with Spain topping the list of bookings, followed by France, the US and Italy. Emily Barnett, travel insurance expert at Compare the Market, said a surprising number of Brits are prepared to stretch their budgets for a holiday fix, despite the cost-of-living crisis.

"While some Brits are choosing closer or more familiar destinations, others are travelling less often but spending more when they do, particularly on long-haul trips."

Holidays are a big financial commitment, and Emily says it's important to protect your trip from the moment you book.

"This can help protect against unforeseen circumstances, such as cancellations in the lead-up to departure or unexpected disruption," she says.

For those planning multiple trips over the year, she added that an annual travel insurance policy can offer a far more cost-effective option, providing you with "continuous cover and peace of mind across every getaway".

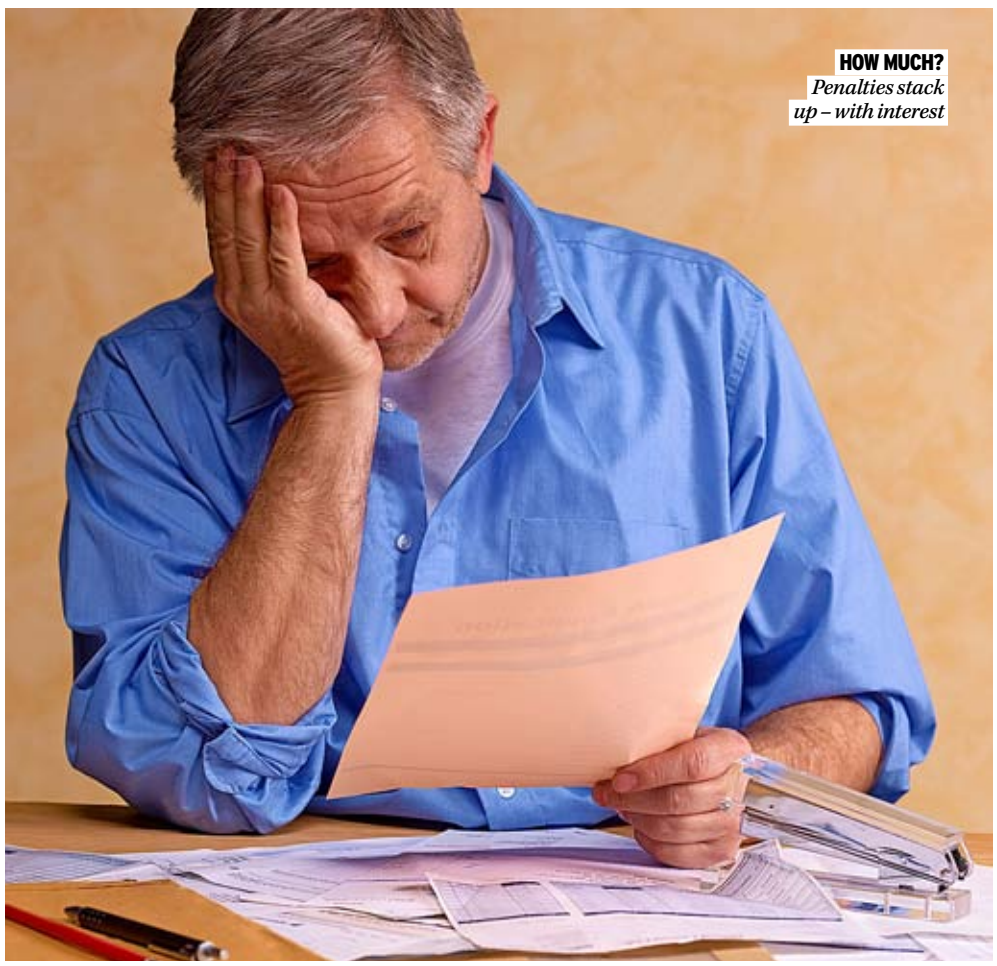
Holidaymakers should remember that more than one in four travel insurance claims are for cancellations, often before the holiday even begins, according to travel insurance provider multitrip.com.

Christian Bennett, from Multitrip, says the main reasons for cancelling are illness or injury to a travelling companion, or illness or the death of a relative not on the trip. Despite the risk, more than half of holidaymakers buy insurance right at the last minute, leaving themselves unprotected if they need to cancel.

"Travel insurance is too important to be an afterthought. Always buy it as soon as you book your holiday," Christian says.

"If you leave travel insurance until close to departure and then something unexpected happens, you could find yourself unable to travel and out of pocket. Buying cover as soon as you book means you are protected from the very start."

Taxman set to land a £100m late fee bonus



HOW MUCH? *Penalties stack up – with interest*

Edited by **HARVEY JONES**

One million taxpayers face automatic fines after failing to file their annual self-assessment tax return before last Saturday's January 31 deadline. They now face a £100 penalty, handing HMRC an instant £100million windfall, with interest to follow if they still fail to submit their return, potentially pushing the total far higher.

While around 11.5 million tax returns did land before the deadline, many will have wrongly assumed they did not need to file one, said Charlene Young, senior pensions and savings expert at AJ Bell.

Some may not have bothered because they did not need to file in previous years, or because they believe they have no tax to pay. "This is only true if HMRC already confirmed to you directly that you don't need to file," Young said.

There is also concern that many pensioners have been caught out after falling back into the income tax net due to the long-term freeze on thresholds, having been pushed above the £12,570 personal allowance by triple lock increases to the state pension.

Young said taxpayers with capital gains to report faced an added challenge this year, as capital gains tax rates increased to 18% for basic rate taxpayers and 24% for those paying higher rates. For those who missed the deadline, penalties can escalate quickly. Alongside the £100 fine, daily interest accrues at 7.75% on any tax owed, with extra charges kicking in after three, six and 12 months.

Young said taxpayers can appeal any late payment fines via the official GOV.UK website: "Many penalties are overturned when challenged, so it is important to dispute those you believe have been issued in error."

Taxes are set to get even more complicated for some under the upcoming Making Tax Digital changes, which come into force from April. Elsa Littlewood, tax partner at BDO, said many buy-to-let landlords and self-employed workers may not realise they will fall under the new Making Tax Digital regime and must act now to comply with the new rules: "HMRC will be writing to those it believes are in scope, but individuals should consider advice to ensure they are ready."

The new rules require unincorporated sole traders or landlords with combined turnover of £50,000 or more to register for Making Tax Digital by April 6. They must submit records of self-employment and property income and expenses quarterly, although tax will still only be paid once or twice a year. HMRC will use a points-based penalty system for non-compliance, with automatic £200 fines once thresholds are reached.

Littlewood said: "All unincorporated sole traders and landlords whose combined turnover is more than £30,000 will be required to comply from April 2027, falling to £20,000 from April 2028."

She said this is a big change for taxpayers and may prove difficult for some: "There is lots of help available on the GOV.UK website, including who is required to register and what is required. You can also check registration requirements through HMRC's checker tool."

A bit of preparation now could save thousands in fines and interest later.

WILL POWER *Locate essential documents*

Plan now to save more heartache after death

FAMILIES are understandably reluctant to talk about issues such as death, wills and paperwork, but putting it off can store up serious trouble for later.

Many realise when a loved one dies that they don't know where to find key documents, creating unnecessary stress, delays and even financial penalties during an already difficult period.

Nearly half of UK couples don't know where their partner's will is kept, while two thirds are in the dark about the location of their parents' will, new research from Canada Life shows.

Almost nine in 10 would not be able to locate a sibling's will at all, and the confusion doesn't stop there. Private pensions are most people's second biggest asset after property, yet more than the third of people in a relationship wouldn't know where to find details of their partner's retirement savings, and they know even less about their parents' pots.

This causes real problems for families trying to sort out an estate, as executors may struggle to gather information to distribute assets, slowing the probate process.

With pensions potentially liable for inheritance tax from 2027, delays could also increase the risk of penalties if tax bills are not settled within six months of death.

Large numbers say they would struggle to trace other financial documents, such as life insurance policies and details of savings, investments, debts or loans.

Liz Hardie, tax, trusts and estate planning specialist at Canada Life, said: "Families could be left in a difficult position with delays in accessing funds, missing out on benefits, or facing unexpected liabilities."

Hardie said there is a simple fix though. Draw up a list of documents, policy numbers and where they are stored, and share it with trusted family members. It could spare them a great deal of pain later on.

Don't bank on rates cut, warn experts with BoE set to hold

MORTGAGE rates are rising rather than falling, and the trend looks set to continue, with the Bank of England (BoE) almost certain to hold rates at 3.75% tomorrow.

Policymakers are wary about further cuts after inflation surprisingly climbed to 3.4% in December, up from 3.2% in November.

Laith Khalaf, head of investment analysis at AJ Bell, said the BoE cut rates in December, but we may have to wait until April for the next one: "It could take even longer as inflationary fears linger."

Banks and building societies have taken note and have started increasing mortgage rates rather than cutting them. HSBC has now followed Nationwide and Virgin Money, raising selected fixed rates by up to 0.19%.

Omer Mehmet, managing director at Welling-based Trinity Finance, warned: "What started as a trickle is turning into a stream."

Andrew Montlake at London-based mortgage broker Coreco said more lenders may follow suit. "The hope is that this is a blip rather than the beginning of a longer-term trend," he said.

However, he added that with inflation expected to fall towards spring, mortgage rates should eventually start falling again.

For those with variable or fixed-rate mortgages due for renewal, it's a reminder that rates may stay elevated for some time, pushing up costs. Brokers are urging borrowers to compare rates before their deal expires, so they can switch to a better one if possible, or budget for slightly higher repayments while base rates remain sticky.

Higher rates can be good news for savers by maintaining the returns they get on cash.

Katie Horne, savings expert at Flagstone, warned that average easy-access savings rates are still well below inflation, and December's jump only widened the gap.

"Savers aren't powerless, though. A flurry of market-topping rates has captured attention recently, and can help savvy savers earn inflation-beating returns on cash," Horne said.

ENTERPRISE

Edited by **MAISHA FROST**

Pump up the jam with thriving SVC

SPREADING OUT *SVC has major plans for future*

Foodies on your marks, spoons and sponge cakes at the ready, taste sensation Tacle Mandarin Marmalade is in stock but not for long, so grab a glowing jar and add a warm pink pot of Harbinger Rhubarb Preserve too.

That's the advice of UK maker and family business Single Variety Co (SVC), whose jams and preserves elevate the pulling powers of flavour, quality and provenance.

The Bristol-based business, employing 13, was founded by retail and food development expert Nicola Elliott a decade ago. Husband Ross is now part of the team and the company is seeing record demand with a £3million turnover forecast for 2026/27 and 75% year-on-year growth. From a kitchen table start-up, SVC has become a many-layered achievement spanning in-house manufacturing and diverse product formats to astute management and automation.

Elliott's blue chip retail experience in product development and packaging taught her "to make sure products are commercially viable and consistently delicious, and to know what format is the right fit and what isn't.

"We focus on making premium jams and preserves from single varieties and selling through independents, online sales, foodservice and selective export such as to Canada. Our 3kg tubs supply the hotel and restaurant markets and our illustrated gift boxes are doing very well. No one's doing what we do and this lets us maintain quality, protect margins and grow sustainably."

Inspired by a passionfruit jam discovery in Sri Lanka, SVC has been boosted post-Covid by bigger customer appetites for artisan foods.

A move to its own factory has enabled greater productivity with investment in automated labelling, filling and lidding equipment. The £450,000 overall self-funded investment helped by a local government grant has paved the way for the launch of mini jars this month serving the hospitality trade.

The business handles more than 30 varieties of fruit with Morello cherry a best seller along with the sought-after Tacle Mandarin, a cross between a blood orange and mandarin, grown in Sicily and distributed in the UK by Natoora. Importing the fruit within four days of being picked to ensure the best flavour possible, the operation creates a valuable market for small scale growers. "At home it's very satisfying to employ local workers," adds Elliott.

Now producing 3.5 tonnes of jam a week, SVC also sources from farms in Herefordshire and rhubarb from Yorkshire. Its Amalfi Lemon Marmalade has been crowned the world's best and other star performers include Alphonso Mango Preserve and feisty Jalapeno Jam. Now rare peach is on the agenda and SVC is in talks with a distributor.

"Having lots of eggs in lots of baskets and not chasing every opportunity has never let us down and we're sticking to that," declares Elliott.

● *singlevariety.co.uk*

GREAT TASTE *SVC founder Nicola Elliott*

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EASY ACCESS

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
cahoot	Sunny Day Saver (5)	None	£1	5.00%	Yearly
Chase	Chase Saver Boosted	None	£1	4.50% **A**	Monthly
Mansfield BS	Triple Access Saver (1st)	None	£1	4.25% **A**	Yearly
Sidekick	Multi Shield	None	£10,000	4.23% **A**	Monthly

SHORT TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
AlRayan Bank **B**	Fixed Deposit	12 Mth Bnd	£5,000	4.32% **F**	On maturity
Rova	Savings Vault	1 Yr Bnd	£500	4.25% **F**	On maturity
Cynergy Bank	Fixed Bond	1 Yr Bnd	£1,000	4.24% **F**	On maturity
OakNorth Bank	Fixed Savings	12 Mth Bnd	£1	4.23% **F**	On maturity

LONG TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Hampshire Trust Bank	Online Saver (46)	5 Yr Bnd	£1	4.31% **F**	Yearly
Close Brothers Savings	Fixed Bond	5 Yr Bnd	£10,000	4.31% **F**	Yearly
Cynergy Bank	Fixed Bond	5 Yr Bnd	£1,000	4.30% **F**	Yearly
Tandem Bank	Fixed Saver	5 Yr Bnd	£1	4.28% **F**	Yearly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Oxbury Bank	Base Rate Tracker (2)	180 Day	£1,000	4.38%	Monthly
Oxbury Bank	Notice Tracker Premium 2	120 Day	£10,000	4.34%	Monthly
GB Bank	Notice 3 Account	120 Day	£1,000	4.33%	Yearly
The Stafford BS	Notice 180	180 Day	£5,000	4.26%	Yearly

VARIABLE ISAs

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Moneybox	Moneybox Cash ISA	None	£500	4.39% **A**	Monthly
Plum	Plum Cash ISA	None	£1	4.36% **A**	Monthly
Atom Bank	Easy Access Cash ISA	None	£1	4.25%	Monthly
Cynergy Bank	Online ISA 61	None	£1	4.10%	Yearly

FIRST TIME BUYERS

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
Skipton BS	4.61%	to 30.4.28	95%	Nil	To 30.4.28
HSBC	4.68%	to 31.5.28	95%	Nil	To 31.5.28
Leek Building Society	4.56%	to 31.5.31	95%	£995	To 31.5.31
HSBC	4.72%	to 31.5.31	95%	Nil	To 31.5.31

SHORT TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
Santander	3.55%	to 2.5.28	60%	£999	To 2.5.28
HSBC	4.19%	to 31.5.28	90%	Nil	To 31.5.28
first direct	3.86%	for 3 years	75%	£490	1st 3 yrs
TSB	4.39%	to 31.5.29	90%	Nil	To 31.5.29

LONG TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
first direct	3.75%	for 5 years	60%	£490	1st 5 yrs
first direct	3.84%	for 5 years	75%	£490	1st 5 yrs
Barclays Mortgage	4.25%	to 31.3.31	90%	Nil	To 31.3.31
Nationwide BS	4.64%	for 10 years	80%	£999	1st 10 yrs

DISCOUNTED VARIABLE RATES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
Cumberland BS	3.98%	to 1.4.28	75%	£999	To 1.4.27
Cumberland BS	4.38%	to 1.4.28	90%	£999	To 1.4.27
Newbury BS	3.99%	for 3 years	75%	£850	1st 3 yrs
Earl Shilton BS	5.59%	for 5 years	90%	£724	1st 5 yrs

REMORTGAGES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
first direct	3.70%**F**	for 2 years	60%	£490	1st 2 yrs
first direct	4.14%**F**	for 2 years	80%	£490	1st 2 yrs
HSBC	3.84%**F**	to 31.5.31	75%	£999	To 31.5.31
Santander	4.06%**F**	to 2.5.31	85%	£999	To 2.5.31

BALANCE TRANSFER CREDIT CARDS

Provider	Product Name	0% Period	Fee	APR
TSB	Plat Balance Transfer MC	38 mths	3.49%	24.9%
Barclaycard	Plat Balance Transfer V	36 mths	3.45%	24.9%
Tesco Bank	Clubcard CC BT MC	36 mths	3.45%	24.9%
Virgin Money	Balance Transfer CC MC	35 mths	2.95%	24.9%

PERSONAL LOANS - BASED ON £10,000 OVER 5 YEARS

Provider	APR	Monthly Repayment	Total Amount Repayable
TSB	5.6%	£190.83	£11,449.80
M&S Bank	5.7%	£191.27	£11,476.20
Santander	5.9%	£192.15	£11,529.00
Novuna Personal Finance	6.1%	£193.03	£11,581.80

PURCHASE CREDIT CARDS

Provider	Product Name	0% Period	APR
Lloyds Bank	Plat 0% Purch & BT CC Visa	25 mths	24.9%
M&S Bank	Purchase Plus Offer MC	25 mths	24.9%
TSB	Platinum Purchase Card MC	25 mths	24.9%
Barclaycard	Plat 21 Mth BT 24 Mth Pur V	24 mths	24.9%

CURRENT ACCOUNTS WITH CREDIT INTEREST OR REWARD

Provider	Account	AER or Amount Paid
TSB	Spend & Save Plus	£5 pm
Nationwide BS	FlexDirect	5.00% **A**
LHV Bank	LHV Current Account	3.75%
iFAST Global Bank	Multi-Currency Current Account	2.65%

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D = Discounted variable rate. **F** = Fixed rate. **V** = Variable rate.

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EXPRESS UK PROPERTY ON THE HOME FRONT

Edited by **DEBORAH STONE**

Hammer out a genuine bargain

GOING ONCE... *Lerry Mills in Talybont*

Buying on a tight budget or looking for a doer-upper? Property auctions could be the answer, as long as you've got the vision and skills to project manage a rebuild or at least take on a renovation.

Auctions are not for the faint-hearted but they can be cheaper than buying through estate agents so it's worth looking at their online sites for a property gem.

SDL Property Auctions, for instance, has an 1800s water-powered woollen mill and cottages for sale near Aberystwyth that could be transformed into holiday accommodation with planning permission.

With a guide price of £450,000 (0800 046 5454; sdlauctions.co.uk), Lerry Mills in Talybont will be for sale during a live-streamed auction on February 26.

The seven-acre site in rural Ceredigion includes ancient woodland, river frontage and fishing rights on the River Leri, a large house converted into several cottages, plus the mill a spinning room, wool shed, washing shed and dye shed.

Some of the old workshops date back to the 1600s, when they were used for smelting lead, and what was once a coin-stamping mill was rebuilt for fabric production in the 1800s, producing Welsh tweed until 1980.

Although all the buildings need major renovation they represent an unusually complete industrial landscape, says Andrew Parker, partner and auctioneer at SDL Property Auctions.

"Sites with this depth of history, natural beauty, and of such a substantial size, rarely come to market," says Parker, who suggests that it could be transformed into a tourism development.

"Subject to the necessary planning consents the buildings, which are in a glorious area that is popular with visitors, could be restored for heritage, cultural or alternative uses."

But buying at auction involves a steep learning curve. First you need to register with the auction house then download the legal pack for the property.

SDL Property Auctions has advice on its website and its top tips are to ask lots of questions, request a viewing of the property and get professional legal advice.

Also crucial at auctions is to get finances in place well before you want to buy, because deposits and buyer fees must be paid immediately at the end of the auction and completion can be as soon as 30 days later. If you don't have your finances in place by completion then you could be charged interest on the purchase, or even sued by the owner.

SDL Property Auctions has a national property auction once a month and you can bid by phone, proxy or online but probably the best way to understand how they work is to attend a few.

There are more than 300 property auction houses in the UK and they're free to attend or browse online, just like estate agents.

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DX1ST

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G	A	P	V	Y	G	N	W	H	R	Y	E	F	Y	X	J	Q
S	W	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	I	O	N	N	T	K	H
D	Z	P	P	M	Y	V	G	F	X	R	L	D	F	S	X	X
V	R	Y	P	L	C	Q	T	K	V	D	K	M	I	G	J	G
Y	E	A	F	B	V	E	R	E	S	O	L	U	T	I	O	N
D	F	A	J	D	F	C	W	T	N	X	Z	B	F	T	O	Z
Q	L	H	F	U	T	U	R	E	Q	B	V	H	V	O	B	P
H	E	G	J	H	A	I	M	F	H	X	M	C	Q	X	E	E
B	C	T	V	D	S	G	H	S	E	D	C	W	N	L	G	G
O	T	B	T	G	B	Y	O	K	U	D	F	G	L	I	I	W
G	I	C	I	E	I	S	P	J	F	R	E	S	H	P	N	O
Q	O	J	V	M	S	N	E	U	T	D	A	M	L	S	N	O
P	N	R	N	L	A	N	J	V	M	M	G	J	M	Y	I	E
M	G	O	G	R	O	W	T	H	J	O	D	X	U	C	N	P
E	Y	C	V	T	S	F	M	M	C	Z	A	U	L	W	G	E
V	J	L	S	T	P	E	W	I	N	N	E	R	B	R	D	O
N	O	X	O	F	O	Y	G	G	K	F	O	I	O	N	L	S

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TODAY'S TV ONES TO WATCH

by **MIKE WARD** *TV critic*

Pick of the day
MICHAEL JACKSON: THE TRIAL, C4, 9PM

OUR YORKSHIRE PUB RESCUE WITH JON RICHARDSON, MORE4, 9PM

THE North Yorkshire village of Fadmoor has a pub called The Plough. Sadly, it's been shut since 2011.

Still, there's nothing to stop someone reopening it, is there? Well, it turns out there are several things conspiring to, not least the fortune needed to restore it. But a bunch of locals are pursuing that mission. And comic Jon has joined them.

Tonight he helps demolish an old toilet block. And is it as old as the building itself, dating back to 1782? Of course not! I'd say it was built the year after.

GRANTCHESTER, ITV1, 9PM

IT'S vicar Alphy's birthday! Exciting, eh? No, not really. At least, not for the poor chap himself. For various personal reasons he's feeling rather sorry for himself, and so he wants to spend the evening on his own.

Geordie, however, is having none of that, and has lined him up a treat.

Local band The Velvet Jacks, no less, are putting on a gig. Alphy's not going to want to miss that is he?

And as if that's not enough to entice the eager amateur sleuth, you'll never guess what's about to happen to the lead singer? Oh, you just did. Fair enough. I take it you've watched this show before?

SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS *Jackson and Arvizo*

JACKO COLD CASE IS NO THRILLER

PROCESSED food is bad for us. Kids are addicted to their phones. The NHS is in crisis. Putin is up to no good. You must look after your mental health. You must look after your gut. An air fryer saves you money. Villains are out to scam you. Yorkshire is lovely. Vets are great. Rich people live in big houses. And so on…

Do you know what those statements have in common? They're all documentary subjects that have been done to death, telling us stuff we already know, then telling us again. Same old issues, same old points. Do producers think we can't remember things from one week to the next?

With this in mind, you'll forgive me if I sigh a little at the arrival of yet another Michael Jackson documentary. In this case, it's one that runs to four parts, largely focusing on the singer's relationship with young cancer patient Gavin Arvizo. This began when the boy had yet to enter his teens, and ultimately led to the child molestation accusations the pop superstar faced at his trial in Santa Maria in 2005.

All of which, I grant you, is perfectly valid documentary material. It's just that 17 years on from Jackson's death, have we not already heard enough to have made up our minds, fairly or otherwise? Wasn't our verdict pretty conclusive – that the bloke was horribly damaged, that he behaved in ways it's hard not to find unsettling, to put it mildly? The "dramatic revelations" here – about that relationship, about Jackson's awful upbringing, about the crazy world he created for himself – aren't likely to change opinions, only reinforce them.

We're not about to be told we've been too hard on him are we? This series isn't called Michael Jackson: Turns Out He Wasn't A Weirdo After All. While it does deliver on its promise, it can surely only reinforce whatever conclusions we drew to a long time ago.

Who knows, maybe I'd feel differently if I'd been a fan of his music. But it was never really my thing. I did quite like that song he did called Ben, way before his megastar days. Until I found out Ben was the name of a rat.

On reflection, maybe that was a sign.

BEST POLITICS

REFORM: READY TO RULE? BBC2, 9PM

According to opinion polls, there's a strong chance that if a general election were called tomorrow, Reform UK could be the winners. But is the party actually ready to govern?

BEST COMEDY

BLACK OPS BBC1, 9.30PM

Dom (Gbemisola Ikumelo) and Kay (Hammed Animashaun) have been dismissed by MI5. But there's a threat to the Notting Hill Carnival so the pair reunite.

BEST DOC

THE FABULOUS FUNERAL PARLOUR C4, 10PM

Filmed in Liverpool over the course of 10 months, it follows charismatic funeral director Hayley as she helps families to say their farewells in their own way.

BEST PROPERTY

KIRSTIE AND PHIL'S LOVE IT OR LIST IT C4, 8PM

Lisa and Linda are divided over their Whitley Bay home. They bought the house in 2015 to raise their daughter Isabella, but the last decade has been overshadowed by trauma.

TODAY'S PREVIEWS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

FILM RATINGS

★★★★★ BRILLIANT
★★★★ VERY GOOD
★★★ GOOD
★★ AVERAGE
★ BAD

(R) REPEAT

ALL PROGRAMMES ARE LISTED IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT).

BBC One

6.00am Breakfast News headlines.
9.30 Morning Live Magazine.
10.45 Rip Off Britain: Holidays (R)
11.15 Homes Under the Hammer Featuring a Herefordshire townhouse and commercial premises in Ayrshire.
12.15pm Bargain Hunt From Malvern, Worcestershire. (R)
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather
2.00 Lost and Found in the Lakes The team search for a piece of jewellery. (R)
2.30 Marcus Wareing Simply Provence Marcus investigates France's fruit-based dishes. (R)
3.00 Escape to the Country In Perth and Kinross. (R)
3.45 Clean It, Fix It A team of cleaners and DIY experts performs home makeovers. (R)
4.30 Antiques Road Trip Margie Cooper and Danny Sebastian take their search into Yorkshire.
5.15 Pointless Quiz show. (R)
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather
6.30 Regional News; Weather
6.55 Party Political Broadcast By the Labour Party. (R)

BBC Two

6.15am Homes Under the Hammer In London, Crewe and County Durham. (R)
7.15 Escape to the Country (R)
8.00 Sign Zone: Rick Stein's Australia Rick Stein travels south from the dry outback into the Riverina. (R)
9.00 BBC News Headlines.
11.15 Politics Live Updates.
1.00pm Bridge of Lies Quiz. (R)
1.45 Unbeatable Quiz. (R)
2.15 The Boss Quiz show. (R)
3.00 The Vintage French Farmhouse In Sommieres. (R)
3.45 Who Do You Think You Are? USA Actress Allison Janney traces her family tree. (R)
4.15 Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands The wildlife of the Ryukyu Islands in Japan. (R)
5.15 Flog It! Valuing antiques in Longleat, Wiltshire. (R)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games With Fatiha El-Ghorri, Patrick Grant, Mr Motivator and Lauren Oakley.
6.30 Clive Myrie's African Adventure Clive travels to the Moroccan city of Marrakesh.

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features.
9.30 Lorraine Entertainment and the latest fashion news.
10.00 This Morning Topical daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, advice and discussion. Including Local Weather.
12.30pm Loose Women Celebrity interviews and topical debate.
1.30 ITV News; Weather
1.55 Regional News; Weather
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal David Dickinson and his team are in Fleetwood, Lancashire. (R)
3.00 Time Is Money Quiz show, hosted by Sara Davies.
3.59 Regional Weather
4.00 Deal or No Deal Stephen Mulhern hosts the gameshow as Kem tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order.
5.00 The Chase Andy, Caren, Sophie and Harri take part.
6.00 Regional News; Weather
6.25 Party Political Broadcast By the Labour Party.
6.30 ITV Evening News

Channel 4

6.25am Cheers Triple bill. (R)
7.50 Everybody Loves Raymond Triple bill of the comedy. (R)
9.10 Frasier Four episodes. (R)
11.10 American Pickers (R)
12.05pm Channel 4 News
12.10 Car S.O.S An XR2. (R)
1.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
2.10 Countdown Dr Ranj Singh is in Dictionary Corner.
3.00 A Place in the Sun A couple from Northern Ireland plan a move to Valencia in Spain. (R)
4.00 A New Life in the Sun Valentina and Nino host their wellness retreat in Bulgaria, but a last-minute change threatens their plans.
5.00 Chateau DIY: Win the Dream With one pair gone, the remaining renovators step into the solo phase of the competition in which they must create a breakfast room suitable for paying guests.
6.00 A Place in the Sun Ben Hillman helps Helen and John find a holiday home in Almeria which they hope will one day become a permanent base.

5

6.00am Milkshake! Children's TV.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Discussion.
11.30 Storm & Alexis Debate.
12.45pm 5 News at Lunchtime
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate.
2.00 Vanessa Discussion show, presented by Vanessa Feltz.
3.00 The Madame Blanc Mysteries Jean is contacted by a couple who believe they possess the original blueprints of Valletta. (R)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun Paula hunts for a lucky break in Benidorm, animal rescuer Marina has her hands full and worries about new pup Panda and Danny, Kieron and Gary reflect on their bar ventures.
5.00 5 News at 5 Headlines.
6.00 Love Nature Volunteer Caitlin Elwin explains the history of sea glass on Seaham beach, looking at where it came from and why visitors collect it.
6.05 The Motorway The patrollers face off with a flock of escaped sheep and are forced to shut down the M6. (R); 5 News

9.30pm, BLACK OPS: Gbemisola Ikumelo

8pm, DIGGING FOR BRITAIN: Alice Roberts (right)

8pm, EMMERDALE: Cain

8pm, KIRSTIE AND PHIL'S LOVE IT OR LIST IT: Linda, Lisa and Phil

8pm, CASUALTY 24/7: EVERY SECOND COUNTS: Vicki

7

7.00 The One Show Live magazine show, hosted by JB Gill and Alex Jones.
7.30 EastEnders Linda goes over and above for Nigel and Julie, Patrick tries to get answers, and Barney stumbles upon shocking information.

7.00 Rick Stein's Australia The chef ends his journey of New South Wales on the south coast, known as the Sapphire Coast. He explains why it's his favourite region in Australia, enjoys the seafood and looks toward the future. Last in series.

7.30 Deal or No Deal: Banker's Best Battles Stephen Mulhern hosts a look back at Monz and Donna's battles as they both took on tense games in the autumn of 2024, with a small fortune at stake for each of them.

7.00 Channel 4 News A round-up of all the latest headlines, in-depth interviews and analysis of political developments and current affairs. Plus, the day's leading sports stories and up-to-the-minute weather reports.

7.00 GPs: Behind Closed Doors Dr Libby Pearson dives in to uncover the mystery behind a patient's unexplained stomach pains. Also, a patient who's just undergone brain surgery comes in struggling to breathe (R); 5 News Update

8

8.00 The Repair Shop The experts restore an organ belonging to original Stranglers keyboard player Dave Greenfield, a pair of 1970s platform shoes, a tattered and torn cookbook from a family's cookery school and a racing trophy.

8.00 Digging for Britain Featuring a vast first-century Roman compound, the warhorses that changed the course of history, a medieval murder mystery and the thriving farmstead belonging to Isaac Newton's mother.

8.00 Emmerdale Cain is feeling nervous and is consumed by intrusive thoughts.
8.30 Coronation Street Carl resolves to set the record straight, Debbie reveals the mother of all secrets and Kevin climbs onto the garage roof.

8.00 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help Lisa and Linda, whose Tyneside home holds a lot of emotions and memories but has become overshadowed by more recent trauma.

8.00 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts There's a disruption to the hospital network, a 92-year-old patient is having trouble breathing, and outpatient Graham is rushed to casualty after collapsing during a CT scan.

9

9.00 Can You Keep a Secret? Debbie makes a cunning plan to save the family. William has run out of medication – so he and Neha visit a drug dealer.
9.30 Black Ops Dom and Kay are fired as a result of the disastrous ambush.

9.00 Reform: Ready to Rule? With Reform UK consistently leading in the polls, Laura Kuenssberg examines the party's ambitions, organisation and efforts to professionalise. Featuring interviews with leading members of the party.

9.00 Grantchester Alphy and Geordie investigate when a member of a rock band is murdered, and Kottaram remains undecided whether to open a letter his mother wrote when she left him as a baby or not. Robson Green stars.

9.00 *NEW* **Michael Jackson: The Trial** Examining the 2005 criminal trial against the singer, and charting Jackson's life in the spotlight. The first episode hears from Jackson's inner circle who tried to prevent the singer's downward spiral.

9.00 Surgeons: A Matter of Life or Death A 17-year-old's liver is failing and he needs an urgent transplant, but it is a very risky procedure, carrying huge potential for serious bleeding. Daniel is also facing a huge surgery.

10

10.00 BBC News at Ten
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.40 Sin City: The Real Las Vegas Double bill. Part one of two. Tir Dhondy reveals the realities behind modern Las Vegas. The first episode explores the risk of crime faced by tourists and visits a pool party; part two of two. Tir Dhondy reveals the realities behind modern Las Vegas, finding out how the city has changed, and what the new improved version of Vegas offers today's visitors. (R)

10.00 One Foot in the Grave Victor takes up life drawing classes and Margaret is only too happy to see the back of him – until she learns the subject is a nude woman whom he has volunteered to drive home. (R)
10.30 Newsnight; Weather

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather
10.30 Regional News Round-up of the current stories; Weather
10.45 Peston Political magazine show hosted by Robert Peston, featuring major interviews with MPs, topical guests and cultural figures.

10.00 The Fabulous Funeral Parlour The work of funeral director Hayley as she helps families make their personal farewells in her own unique way. Filmed over 10 months, the documentary tells the story of three families navigating loss.

10.30 Ambulance: Code Red Twenty-one-year-old Ryan loses his helmet and suffers serious injuries after a motorcycle accident, and a toddler suffers a seizure so severe he's placed in an induced coma.

11

11.00 Unspun World with John Simpson News stories.
11.30 *FILM* **Till** (2022, 12) An African-American woman vows to expose the racism behind the murder of her son in 1950s Mississippi. Drama, starring Danielle Deadwyler. ★★★★

11.40 Sorry, I Didn't Know Chizzy Akudolu hosts the panel show about black history, with Eshaan Akbar, Kojo Anim, Remi Burgz and Daniel Foxx joining captains Eddie Kadi and Richard Blackwood. (R)

11.05 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on shows including The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer, With Love Meghan, Tempting Fortune, Fear, and Last One Laughing. From March 2025. (R)

11.30 Skin A&E Two grooms-to-be come to the clinic with lumps they want to get rid of before their big days. Carl has multiple lipomas and sees Dr Emma McMullen, while Dr Dev Shah removes a neck cyst for Alan. (R)

12 MIDNIGHT

12.10am Six Nations 2026 Preview. Sarra meets up with those involved to get their insight ahead of this year's championship, including new Wales head coach Steve Tandy. **12.40** Michael McIntyre's Big Show **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.45-6.00am** BBC News. Headlines.

1.35am Sign Zone: Mystery Road: Origin. Jay's rough justice gets an unexpected response. (R) **2.25** Sign Zone: Amanda & Alan's Greek Job. Amanda Holden and Alan Carr tackle the master bedroom. (R) **2.55** Sign Zone: Dragons' Den (R) **3.55-6.15am** This Is BBC Two

12.05am Shop on TV **3.00** Online Reviews: Can You Trust Them? – Tonight. Sam Leader investigates the digital marketplace and online reviews. (R) **3.25** Ainsley's Taste of the Bahamas. The island's homegrown produce. (R) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00am** Deal or No Deal (R)

12.05am 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown (R) **1.00** *FILM* High-Rise (2015, 15) Satirical thriller. ★★★ **3.00** Mission to Space with Francis Bourgeois (R) **3.50** Jamie's 5 Ingredient Meals (R) **4.40** Sunday Brunch (R) **4.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (R) **5.45-6.25am** Countdown (R)

12.30am Car Pound Cops. Police deal with an erratic driver. (R) **1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** Friends: double bill (R) **3.45** Ice Age: A Frozen World (R) **4.35** The Highland Vet (R) **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** The Adventures of Paddington (R) **5.45-6.00am** Milo (R)

ITV2 FREEVIEW 6

6.00am CITV **7.30** Celebrity Dinner Date **8.30** Georgia and Tommy: Happy Essex After **9.25** The Only Way Is Essex **10.25** The Real Housewives of Miami **11.20** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **12.15pm** Dinner Date **1.15** Celebrity Dinner Date **2.15** The Only Way Is Essex **3.15** The Real Housewives of Orange County **4.10** The Real Housewives of Miami **5.00** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills

6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase With Charlene White, Russell Kane and Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen.

7.00 Wheel of Fortune Gameshow.

8.00 The Real Housewives of Orange County Heather finds herself negotiating a birthday conundrum involving her guests.

9.00 Love Island: All Stars Reality series.

10.05 Grosse Pointe Garden Society

11.05 Family Guy Double bill.

12.05am American Dad! **1.05** Bob's Burgers **2.05** American Dad! **2.30** Unwind **3.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

ITVQuiz FREEVIEW 28

9.00am Deal or No Deal **10.00** Tipping Point **1.00pm** Lingo **2.00** Tenable **3.00** Wheel of Fortune. Gameshow. **4.00** Time Is Money **5.00** Deal or No Deal. Stephen Mulhern hosts as Carol gets her chance to open the iconic red boxes.

6.00 Lingo Triple bill. Taking on the reigning Lingo champions this time are partners Jen and James and brothers-in-law Nish and Chris; crossing words to beat the reigning champions this time are mother and daughter Julie and Jess, and friends Fatima and Zainab; taking on the reigning champions this time are sisters Lauren and Ellie from Solihull and friends Gill and Sue.

9.00 Beat the Chasers Contestants from across the UK take on a team of Chasers, hoping to win big money.

10.00 Tipping Point Double bill. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz.

12.00m't Tipping Point **12.55** Tenable **1.50** Unwind **2.00-9.00am** Teleshopping

BBC3 FREEVIEW 23

7.00pm The Catch Up The day's news.

7.05 SpongeBob SquarePants

7.30 Deadly 60 Steve Backshall dives with yellow-fin tuna to demonstrate their speed. He also tracks down the elusive duck-billed platypus.

8.00 Dragons' Den Cosmetic powerhouse Jenna Meek joins the line-up of multimillionaire investors.

9.00 The Apprentice Lord Sugar invites fresh candidates to vie to become his next business partner.

10.05 The Apprentice: Unfinished Business Angela Scanlon chats to the show's freshly rejected candidate.

10.35 FILM **Saltburn** (2023, 15) Comedy thriller, starring Barry Keoghan and Jacob Elordi. ★★★★

12.40am FILM Cyrano (2022, 12) Musical romance, starring Peter Dinklage. ★★★★ **2.30** Long Story Short: Doppelganger **2.45-4.00am** RuPaul's Drag Race UK vs the World

BBC4 FREEVIEW 9

7.00pm Great British Railway Journeys Michael Portillo ventures deep underground onto London's newest railway – the Elizabeth Line.

7.30 Coastal Path Paul Rose explores the north Cornish coast.

8.00 Brian Cox's Adventures in Space and Time The physicist looks at attempts to find extraterrestrial life.

9.00 Tribe Bruce Parry joins the Nenets on their annual migration across the Siberian tundra.

10.00 Smiley's People Double bill. The agent gets even closer to finding Karla, but first he must make a sacrifice; with a blessing from Saul Enderby, Smiley heads to Switzerland. Alec Guinness stars. Last in series.

12.00m't Sleuths, Spies & Sorcerers: Andrew Marr's Paperback Heroes **1.00** Great British Railway Journeys **1.30** Tribe **2.30-3.30am** Brian Cox's Adventures in Space and Time

GB News FREEVIEW 236

6.00am Breakfast with Eamonn and Ellie **9.30** Britain's Newsroom **12.00noon** PMQs Live **1.00** Good Afternoon Britain **3.00** Martin Daubney

6.00 Dewbs & Co Plain-speaking, straight-talking – Michelle Dewberry delivers her take on the day's news.

7.00 Farage An action-packed hour of topical discussion and debate.

8.00 Jacob Rees-Mogg's State Of The Nation Join Jacob for his unique and unmissable take on the news.

9.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Replay Join Patrick for two hours of debate and news making interviews. Top guests tackle the issues that matter, with a sharp take on every story.

11.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition Debate and news stories.

12.00m't The Late Show Live **2.00** Farage Replay **3.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay **5.00-6.00am** Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition

U&Dave FREEVIEW 19

6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** James May's Things You Need to Know **8.00** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **10.00** How Britain Worked **11.00** Rick Stein's Secret France **12.00noon** Bangers & Cash **2.00** Extreme Fishing with Robson Green **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. Si King and Dave Myers reflect on the 1960s.

6.00 Rick Stein's Secret France The chef takes a culinary tour of France, starting his trip in Dieppe.

7.00 Would I Lie to You? Comedy panel show, with Greg Davies, Alex Jones, John Cooper Clarke and Rick Edwards.

7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games

9.00 QI XL With Professor Brian Cox, Rhys Darby and Jason Manford.

10.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You

11.00 Taskmaster Gameshow.

12.00m't Mock the Week **12.40** Would I Lie to You? **2.00** Silence Is Golden **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

U&Drama FREEVIEW 20

6.00am Teleshopping **7.25** The Bill **8.20** Doctors **9.35** Classic Holby City **10.35** Classic Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** All Creatures Great and Small **3.00** Howards' Way **4.10** Bergerac **5.20** The Thin Blue Line

6.00 Last of the Summer Wine Triple bill.

8.00 Darby and Joan Double bill. Jack and Joan's search for a missing boy is complicated by the sudden arrival of Joan's daughter Rebecca; the return of a familiar figure from her travels helps Joan piece together the truth about her husband.

10.00 New Tricks Danny investigates the death of a modern-day Miss Marple.

11.20 Waking the Dead Part one of two. A kidnapping is linked to an unsolved double murder from 1967.

12.40am Sister Boniface Mysteries. Tragedy strikes at a war memorial ceremony. **1.40** The Thin Blue Line **2.25** Last of the Summer Wine **2.55** Art Detectives **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

E4 FREEVIEW 13

6.00am Hollyoaks **6.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** The Goldbergs **10.00** Modern Family **11.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.00pm** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** The Simpsons **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Modern Family **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine

6.00 The Simpsons Double bill.

7.00 Hollyoaks Liberty leans on her friends as concerns about her relationship rise.

7.30 The Simpsons Homer, Reverend Lovejoy and Apu go on holiday.

8.00 First Dates Karen sets out to give a retired teacher's dating game a boost.

9.00 Gogglebox Double bill.

11.05 Open House: The Great Sex Experiment Engaged couple Tom and Lauren wish to open up their relationship.

12.05am Naked Attraction. Dating series. **1.10** First Dates **2.15** Gogglebox **3.05** Naked Attraction **4.00** The Goldbergs **4.45-6.00am** Don't Tell the Bride

More4 FREEVIEW 18

8.55am Strangers on a Plane **9.30** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **10.25** A Place in the Sun **11.30** Come Dine with Me: five episodes **2.10pm** Four in a Bed: five episodes **4.50** A Place in the Sun **5.55** Car S.O.S

6.55 Car S.O.S Fuzz Townshend and Tim Shaw secretly restore a 1969 Lancia Fulvia 1.3 Rallye in Aberfeldy.

7.55 The Dog House Albie the Jack Russell puppy has a second chance of a home with 10-year-old George.

9.00 NEW **Our Yorkshire Pub Rescue with Jon Richardson** The comedian joins a campaign to save a historic pub.

10.00 Jon Richardson: Old Man Tour A chance to see a performance recorded at Blackpool's historic Grand Theatre.

11.05 Perfect Pub Walks with Bill Bailey Bill takes fellow comedian Alan Davies to the Peak District National Park.

12.10am Our Yorkshire Pub Rescue with Jon Richardson **1.15** 24 Hours in A&E **3.25-3.55am** Food Unwrapped

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: 1.35-1.45pm BBC Wales Today; Weather **6.30** BBC Wales Today; Weather **6.55** Party Political Broadcast **7.00-7.30** Sarra Elgan's Six Nations 2026 Preview **10.30** BBC Wales Today; Weather **10.40** Long Story Short: Beyond **10.55** Sin City: The Real Las Vegas: double bill **12.25am** Six Nations 2026 Preview **12.55** Michael McIntyre's Big Show **1.55-6.00am** BBC News

WALES As BBC2 except: 7.00pm The One Show **7.30** Rick Stein's Australia **8.30** Digging for Britain **9.30-10.30pm** Reform: Ready to Rule? Political insight with Laura Kuenssberg.

MERIDIAN As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Meridian **6.00-6.25** ITV News Meridian; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Meridian

CENTRAL As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Central **6.00-6.25** ITV News Central; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Central

ITV WALES As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.00** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.25-6.30** Party Political Broadcast. By the Welsh Labour Party. **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Cymru Wales

WEST As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country; Weather

ANGLIA As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Anglia **6.00-6.25** ITV News Anglia; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Anglia

WESTCOUNTRY As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country

S4C 6.00am Cyw **11.00** Dysgu Gyda Cyw **12.00noon** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Codi Pac **12.30** Heno **1.00** Cartrefi Cymru **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Dwr Du: Trychineb y Sea Empress **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Bois y Pizza: Chwe' Gwlad **6.25** Darllediad Gwleidyddol **6.30** Rownd a Rownd **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobol y Cwm **8.25** Y Deis **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** NEW Jonathan. Sketches, and challenges. **10.00** Dal y Mellt **11.00-11.35pm** Welsh Whisperer – Ni'n Teithio Nawr!

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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am LIVE **NBA Basketball** Portland Trail Blazers v Phoenix Suns (Tip-off 4.00am).
6.30 Sky Sports News. Round-up of the news.
7.00 LIVE **ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket** India v Afghanistan. Coverage of the second semi-final from Harare Sports Club in Zimbabwe.
3.00pm LIVE **Tennis** The WTA and/or ATP Tours.
5.00 The Premier League Show **7.00** Sports Centre
7.30 LIVE **EFL Cup** Manchester City v Newcastle United (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the semi-final second-leg tie from Etihad Stadium.
10.45 Back Pages Tonight. Tomorrow's newspapers. **11.00** Sky Sports News **12.00m't** The Insiders **1.00-6.00am** Sky Sports News

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket
7.00 LIVE **ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket** India v Afghanistan. Coverage of the second semi-final from Harare Sports Club in Zimbabwe.
3.00pm LIVE **International T20 Cricket** India v South Africa. Coverage of the warm-up match ahead of the T20 World Cup from Dr. DY Patil Sports Academy in Navi Mumbai.
5.00 Best of ICC WT20 **5.30** Best of England v South Africa **5.45** Best of ICC WT20 **6.00** WPL **7.00** ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket **8.00** ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket **9.00** ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket **10.00** WPL **11.00** ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket **12.00m't** WPL **3.30** Best of England v South Africa **3.45** Best of ICC WT20 **4.00-6.00am** WPL

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am Championship Retro **8.00** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** EFL Cup Retro **11.00** EFL Cup Highlights **11.30** EFL Trophy Football
12.00noon EFL Cup **2.00** EFL Greatest Games **2.15** SPFL Highlights **2.30** EFL Highlights **3.30** EFL League One Goals **4.00** EFL League Two Goals **4.30** SPFL Round-Up **4.45** SPFL Highlights **5.00** EFL Highlights **5.45** EFL Cup Highlights **6.45** SPFL Highlights
7.00 LIVE **SPFL** Aberdeen v Celtic (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the Scottish Premiership match from Pittodrie, as the visitors look for another three points to keep in the hunt for another league title. Celtic have won the previous two meetings between the sides including a 3-1 victory at home just before Christmas. The last fixture between these teams at this ground was back in August when the visitors won 2-0 thanks to goals from Benjamin Nygren and Reo Hatate.
10.30 SPFL Highlights **10.45** EFL Highlights **11.00** EFL Cup Highlights **11.30** EFL Highlights
12.00m't EFL Cup Highlights **12.30** EFL **3.30** EFL Greatest Games **4.00-6.00am** EFL Cup Retro

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6.00am LPGA Tour Golf **8.00** PGA Tour Golf
9.00 LIVE **Golf** The African Amateur Championship. Day one of the tournament held at Royal Johannesburg in South Africa.
12.00noon LPGA Tour Golf **2.00** The Big 5 Roundtable **4.00** LPGA Tour Golf
6.00 PGA Tour Champions **7.00** PGA Tour: The Cut **7.30** HotelPlanner Tour Golf Highlights **8.00** PGA Tour Golf **9.00** Beyond the Scorecard **9.30** TGL **11.30** Ryder Cup – Official Films
12.30am Beyond the Scorecard. With Chris Kirkland. **1.00** PGA Tour Golf **3.00** The Open – Official Films **4.00** PGA Tour Golf **5.00-6.00am** Chronicles of a Champion Golfer

TNT SPORTS 1

8.00am Original Documentary **8.30** Premier League Netbusters **9.00** Premier League Stories **9.30** Premier League Review **10.30** Isuzu UTE A-League Highlights
11.00 LIVE **Snooker World Grand Prix** Coverage of the fourth session from the first day of the tournament, which takes place at Kai Tak Arena.
2.00pm Premier League Netbusters
2.30 LIVE **LIV Golf** Coverage from the first day of the first round of the season, which takes place at Riyadh Golf Club in Saudi Arabia.
8.30 Premier League Stories **9.00** Premier League Review **10.00** International T20 Cricket Highlights **11.00** UFC **2.00am** Fight Week **2.30** Cyclocross **3.30** LIV Golf
5.00-8.00am LIVE **Snooker World Grand Prix** The second session from the third day.

TNT SPORTS 2

6.00am Winter Olympic Games **6.30** Athletes to Watch **9.15** Original Documentary
10.15 LIVE **Winter Olympic Games – Alpine Skiing** Day one of the Men's Downhill Training, which takes place at Stelvio Ski Centre in Bormio.
12.30pm Winter Olympic Games **1.00** The Monuments **3.30** Original Documentary **4.30** Original Documentary **5.45** Athletes to Watch
6.00 LIVE **Winter Olympic Games – Curling** Great Britain v Norway. The match from the round robin stage of the mixed doubles event, which takes place at Cortina Curling Olympic Stadium.
8.00 Winter Olympic Games **8.30** The Monuments **9.00** The Monuments **9.30** The Monuments **10.00** The Monuments **10.30** The Monuments **11.00** Winter Olympic Games – Curling
12.00m't Original Documentary **1.15** Athletes to Watch **1.30** Winter Olympic Games **2.00** Winter Olympic Games – Curling **3.00** Original Documentary **4.00** Original Documentary **5.00-6.00am** Winter Olympic Games – Curling

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Never the Twain **6.30** On the Buses **7.05** Classic Emmerdale **8.10** Classic Coronation Street **9.10** Inspector Morse **11.20** Heartbeat **1.30pm** Foyle's War **3.35** Classic Emmerdale **4.40** Classic Coronation Street **5.50** Heartbeat **8.00** Grace **10.00** Foyle's War **11.50** Trial & Retribution **12.50am** The Larkins **1.50-2.30am** Unwind with ITV

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am The Big Match Revisited **8.05** Magnum, PI **9.05** Kojak **10.05** Boon **11.15** The Sweeney **12.20pm** Robin of Sherwood **1.30** Magnum, PI **2.30** Kojak **3.40** Boon **4.50** The Sweeney **5.55** Minder **7.00** American Pickers **8.00** Junk & Disorderly **9.00** FILM You Only Live Twice (1967/PG) James Bond spy thriller, starring Sean Connery. ★★★★★ **11.25** EFL Carabao Cup Highlights **12.20am** All Elite Wrestling: Collision **2.10** Motorsport Mundial **2.40** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30-4.00am** Auto Mundial

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun **10.00** Shoplifters: Caught Red Handed **11.00** Traffic Cops **2.00pm** Police Interceptors **5.00** Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law **8.00** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **9.00** FILM Runaway Bride (1999/PG) Romantic comedy, with Julia Roberts and Richard Gere. ★★★ **11.25** Octomum: The World's Most-Hated Woman? **12.55-4.00am** Police Interceptors

REALLY Freeview 44

6.00am Celebrity Fantasy Homes **7.00** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **8.00** Escape to the Country **9.00** Salvage Hunters **12.00noon** Antiques Road Trip **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **4.00** Long Lost Family **6.00** Money for Nothing **7.00** Salvage Hunters **9.00** Fixer to Fabulous. Dave and Jenny Marrs help a woman transform a lakeside fixer into a stunning retreat. **10.00** Home Town **11.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **2.00am** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Salvage Hunters

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am Entertainment News on 5 **9.05** Trucking Hell **9.20** Traffic Cops **10.20** Police Interceptors **12.20pm** FILM The Lawless Breed (1953/PG) ★★★ **2.05** FILM Whispering Smith (1948/U) ★★ **4.00** Trucking Heavy **5.00** Traffic Cops **6.00** Police Interceptors **8.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **9.00** Traffic Cops **10.00** Special Forces: Most Daring Missions **11.00** Banged Up Abroad **12.00m't** World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera **1.05** Ice Road Truckers **2.05-4.00am** Trucking Hell

SKY ARTS Freeview 36

6.00am Titanic: The Musical **8.20** The Joy of Painting **8.55** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** The Directors **12.00noon** Discovering: Joan Crawford **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir **3.00** Tea with Judi Dench **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Buster Keaton **6.00** Tales of the Unexpected **7.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents

Live EFL Cup
Sky Sports Main Event, 7.30pm
Strikes from Antoine Semenyo (left) and Rayan Cherki earned Manchester City a 2-0 semi-final first-leg win over Newcastle United. The Etihad hosts the second match this evening.

8.00 Landscape Artist of the Year 2026 **9.00** Landscape Artist of the Year: Celebrity Special **10.00** David Hockney: A Celebration **11.30** 50 Years on Film: David Hockney **12.30am** Jack B Yeats: The Man Who Painted Ireland **1.40** Anish Kapoor: Stupid Naughty Boy **2.40** Inside Guggenheim **3.50** My Greatest Shot: Street **4.20** My Greatest Shot: Animals **4.45-6.00am** National Trust: National Treasures

U&GOLD

7.30am Ever Decreasing Circles **8.00** The Green Green Grass **8.40** Dad's Army **9.20** Are You Being Served? **10.00** Porridge **10.40** Keeping Up Appearances **11.20** Last of the Summer Wine **12.40pm** The Green Green Grass **1.20** Ever Decreasing Circles **2.00** Dad's Army **2.40** Are You Being Served? **3.20** Porridge **4.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **4.40** Last of the Summer Wine **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances **6.40** Porridge **7.20** Dad's Army **8.00** Only Fools and Horses **10.00** Men Behaving Badly **10.40** Not Going Out **11.20** Only Fools and Horses **1.20am** Men Behaving Badly **2.00** Avoidance **3.15-4.00am** Not Going Out

U&YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.10am Great Continental Railway Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash **10.00** Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution **11.00** Secret Nazi Bases **12.00noon** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Great Canal Journeys **8.00** Abandoned Engineering. Exploring a secret New Jersey facility infiltrated by a Soviet spy ring. **9.00** Classic Car Kings **10.00** Bangers & Cash **12.00m't** Abandoned Engineering **2.00-3.00am** Masters of Reinvention

U&ALIBI

7.15am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** The Mentalist **11.00** Hudson & Rex **12.00noon** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** The Mentalist **5.00** Hudson & Rex **6.00** Father Brown **7.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **8.00** Death in Paradise **10.00** Father Brown **12.00m't** So Help Me Todd **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Evil **3.00-4.00am** Far North

SKY MAX

6.00am Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** The Flash **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** A League of Their Own: The Rally **12.00noon** The Flash **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **3.05** S.W.A.T **4.10** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.15** A League of Their Own: The Rally **6.15** Stargate SG-1 **8.15** Never Mind the Buzzcocks **9.00** FILM Eye in the Sky (2015/15) Thriller. ★★★★★ **10.55** Fear the Walking Dead **12.00m't** SEAL Team **1.00** The Force: Manchester **2.00** Road Wars **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am The Guest Wing **8.00** Boardwalk Empire **10.10** The Sopranos **12.20pm** Game of Thrones **2.30** The Wire **4.40** Westworld **5.45** Deadwood **6.50** Game of Thrones **9.00** Under Salt Marsh **11.05** Mare of Easttown **12.15am** Deadwood **1.15** The Sopranos **2.20** Game of Thrones **4.30** In Treatment **5.00-6.00am** Fish Town

SKY WITNESS

6.00am Nothing to Declare **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Border Security USA **10.00** Border Security: Canada's Front Line **11.00** A1: Britain's Longest Road **12.00noon** FBI **1.00** The Rookie **3.00** Watson **4.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **5.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Police 24/7 **8.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **9.00** Matlock **10.00** The Rookie **12.00m't** FBI **1.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **2.00** NEW FBI **3.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **4.00** Road Wars **5.00-6.00am** The Force: Manchester

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Will & Grace **9.00** Ballers **10.15** Sex and the City **11.25** Entourage **12.25pm** Will & Grace **1.25** Sex and the City **2.35** Ballers **3.50** And Just Like That **4.45** The Office (US) **5.45** Will & Grace **6.45** Community **7.45** Sex and the City **9.00** Sarah Silverman: We Are Miracles. An adults-only stand-up comedy. **10.05** And Just Like That **11.05** Community **12.05am** Entourage **1.05** Ballers **2.25** Curb Your Enthusiasm **3.45-5.00am** Silicon Valley

DISCOVERY

6.00am How Do They Do It? **7.00** Goblin Works Garage **9.00** Gold Rush: White Water **11.00** Diesel Brothers **1.00pm** Deadliest Catch **3.00** How It's Made **5.00** The Woodland Workshop: double bill **7.00** Wheeler Dealers: triple bill **10.00** Kindig Customs. The '58 Corvette's owner wants to top off his collection with a custom CF1. **11.00** Deadliest Catch **1.00am** Wheeler Dealers **2.00** Kindig Customs **3.00** Gold Divers **4.00-5.00am** Moonshiners

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Inside Incredible Machines **9.00** Air Crash Investigation **10.00** Seconds from Disaster **11.00** WW2: Hell Under the Sea **12.00noon** Nazi Megastructures **1.00** Air Crash Investigation **3.00** Secret Nazi Science **4.00** Draining Chicago: What Lies Beneath **5.00** Ice Road Rescue **6.00** Construction Fails. A tanker truck fire. **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **8.00** Pole to Pole with Will Smith **9.00** Area 51: I Was There **10.00** Gladiators: Warriors of the Ancient World **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00m't** Car S.O.S. A 1973 Dennis fire engine. **1.00** Toronto Airport Uncovered **2.00** Abandoned **2.30** Made in a Day **3.20** Food Factory **4.10-5.00am** Secrets of the Zoo: Keeper Tales

Radio

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz 6.58am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.33** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Matt and Mollie **3.30** Newsbeat **3.33** Going Home with Katie and Emil **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Radio 1's Future Pop with Mollie King **10.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri **11.00** Benji B **1.00am** Radio 1 Dance Presents **2.00** Radio 1 Anthems with Nat and Vicky **4.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems **5.00-6.58am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz 6.30am The Scott Mills Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00noon** Jeremy Vine **2.00** Trevor Nelson **4.00** OJ Borg **6.30** OJ Borg's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **8.45** Radio 2 Piano Room **9.00** The Folk Show with Mark Radcliffe **10.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony **12.00m't** Connor Phillips **3.00** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton **4.00-6.30am** Jason Mohammad

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz 6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **3.00** Choral Evensong **4.00** Composer of the Week: Erik Chisholm **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert **9.45** The Essay: Almost Famous **10.00** Night Tracks **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night

CHOICE
Radio 3 In Concert
Radio 3, 7.30pm
Ian Skelly is at the Royal Festival Hall, where the London Philharmonic plays music ranging from Janacek's Taras Bulba and Bacewicz's Overture for orchestra to Lutoslawski's Fourth Symphony. There is also Martinu's Concerto No 2 for violin and orchestra which he wrote while in exile in the USA.

BBC RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz 6.00am Today **9.00** Sideways **9.30** Putin and the Apartment Bombs **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** The Today Debate **11.45** Book of the Week: Constable's Year **12.00noon** News **12.04** You and Yours **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** Sanctuary: An Act of Defiance **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: Deacon: A Reckoning **3.00** Money Box **3.30** The Artificial Human **4.00** When It Hits the Fan **4.15** The Media Show **5.00** PM **5.57** Weather **6.00** News **6.30** Crossing the Floor **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.00** AntiSocial **8.45** Magic Consultants **9.00** Ransom Man **9.30** Inside Health **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The White Lady of Morecambe **11.00** Doctors on Hold **11.15** The Skewer **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00m't** News **12.30** Book of the Week: Constable's Year **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.00** News **5.04** Yesterday in Parliament. Reports. **5.32** Weather **5.34** Shipping **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45-6.00am** Farming Today

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

693/909kHz 6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **2.00pm** Matt Chorley **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.00** Football **10.30** Tony Livesey **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00-6.00am** Wake Up to Money

BBC RADIO WALES

FM: 94.6MHz 6.00am Radio Wales News Update **6.05** Wake Up with Radio Wales **6.31** Science Cafe **7.00** Radio Wales Breakfast **9.00** Bronwen Lewis **11.59** The Phone In **2.00pm** Justine Jones **5.00** Radio Wales Drive **6.30** Country Focus **7.00** Country with Al Lewis **10.00** Eleri Sion **12.00m't** Relax with Radio Wales **1.00-6.00am** As Radio 5 Live

CLASSIC FM

100-102MHz 6.30am Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Dan Walker **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings with Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00-6.30am** Breakfast

ABSOLUTE RADIO

DAB 6.00am Dave Berry **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Ben Burrell **4.00** Bush and Richie **7.00** Danielle Perry **10.00** Jay Lawrence **1.00-6.00am** Dan Noble

Movies

FILM4

11.00am The Shepherd of the Hills (1941/PG) Western, starring John Wayne. ★★★
1.05pm The Mouse That Roared (1959/U) Comedy, starring Peter Sellers. ★★★
2.45 They Rode West (1954/U) Western, with Robert Francis and Donna Reed. ★★★
4.25 Shenandoah (1965/PG) American Civil War western, starring James Stewart. ★★★
6.35 Oblivion (2013/12) Sci-fi adventure, with Tom Cruise and Morgan Freeman. ★★★★
9.00 Beau Is Afraid (2023/15) Premiere. An anxiety-ridden man is forced to confront his deepest fears when travelling home to get to his mother. Horror comedy, starring Joaquin Phoenix and Nathan Lane. ★★★★
12.40-3.30am Public Enemies (2009/15) Fact-based crime drama, starring Johnny Depp and Christian Bale. ★★★★

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.30am Xeno (2025/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Lulu Wilson. ★★★
8.20 Prisoner of War (2025/15) See 3.25am. ★★★
10.25 The Naked Gun (2025/15) See 8.00pm. ★★★★
12.05pm The Cut (2024/12) See 9.40pm. ★★★★
1.55 The Ballad of Wallis Island (2025/12) Comedy drama, starring Tim Key. ★★★★★
3.40 Borderline (2025/15) Dark comedy horror, starring Samara Weaving. ★★★
5.25 Nuremberg (2025/15) Thriller, starring Russell Crowe and Rami Malek. ★★★★
8.00 The Naked Gun (2025/15) Comedy reboot, starring Liam Neeson. ★★★★
9.40 The Cut (2024/12) Sports thriller, starring Orlando Bloom and John Turturro. ★★★★
11.30 The Toxic Avenger (2025/18) Comedy horror, starring Peter Dinklage. ★★★
1.20am Cookster: The Darkest Days (2024/15) Drama, starring Craige Middleburg and Nick Moran. ★★★
3.25 Prisoner of War (2025/15) Thriller, starring Scott Adkins and Peter Shinkoda. ★★★
5.30-7.05am Super Charlie (2024/PG) Family animation, with the voice of Alex Kelly. ★★★

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

4.05pm The Breakfast Club (1985/15) Drama, with Emilio Estevez and Judd Nelson. ★★★★
5.45 The Bodyguard (1992/15) Drama, with Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston. ★★★★
8.00 Molly's Game (2017/15) Fact-based drama about Molly Bloom, a skier who ran the world's most exclusive high-stakes poker game and became an FBI target. Starring Jessica Chastain and Idris Elba. ★★★★
10.25 Fifty Shades of Grey (2015/18) Drama, starring Jamie Dornan. ★★★
12.35am Fifty Shades Darker (2017/18) Drama, with Dakota Johnson. ★★★
2.40 Fifty Shades Freed (2018/18) Drama, with Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan. ★★★
4.35-6.35am Burning an Illusion (1981/15) Drama, with Cassie McFarlane. ★★★

SKY CINEMA FAMILY

4.20pm Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009/PG) Comedy, starring Kevin James. ★★★
6.00 Matilda (1996/PG) Children's fantasy comedy, starring Mara Wilson. ★★★★
7.50 The Smurfs (2011/U) Fantasy comedy, starring Neil Patrick Harris. ★★★
9.45 The Smurfs 2 (2013/U) Fantasy comedy sequel, starring Hank Azaria. ★★
11.45 The Karate Kid Part II (1986/PG) Martial arts sequel, starring Ralph Macchio. ★★★★
1.50am Oliver! (1968/U) Musical, starring Ron Moody and Mark Lester. ★★★★★
4.25-6.20am The Tiger Rising (2022/PG) Family drama, starring Dennis Quaid. ★★★

TALKING PICTURES TV

4.00pm Doctor at Sea (1955/PG) Comedy, with Dirk Bogarde and Brigitte Bardot. ★★
5.50 No Trace (1950/PG) Thriller, starring Hugh Sinclair and Dinah Sheridan. ★★★
7.25 Scotland Yard Drama.
8.00 Van der Valk Police drama.
10.10 Count Dracula Part two of two.
11.50 We Were Strangers (1949/PG) John Huston's drama, with Jennifer Jones. ★★★
2.00am A Line in the Sand
4.05-5.35am Tread Softly (1952/PG) Mystery, starring Frances Day. ★★★

GREAT! MYSTERY

4.00pm Murder, She Wrote
5.00 Murder, She Wrote
6.00 Sue Thomas: FBEye
7.00 Castle Alexis pursues an old case.
8.00 Unforgettable Return of the crime drama about a detective with an infallible memory.
9.00 Hailey Dean Mysteries Whodunit, starring Kellie Martin and Giacomo Baessato.
10.55 Martha's Vineyard Mysteries: Riddled With Deceit (2020/PG) Drama, starring Jesse Metcalfe and Sarah Lind. ★★
12.50am I Almost Married A Serial Killer (2019/12) Thriller, starring Krista Allen. ★★
2.30 Target: My Daughter (2017/PG) Thriller, with Yancy Butler and Karis Cameron. ★★★
4.05-6.00am Sue Thomas: FBEye

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Letters

Edited by GREG MORGAN

The Daily Express, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP
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Strip gruesome twosome of their peerage and gong

EVEN before the new revelations, Peter Mandelson's dodgy past should have firmly ruled him out as US ambassador.

Keir Starmer ignored warnings insisting he knew best. He always insists "it's the right thing to do" but every decision he makes is disastrous for our country.

He insists that the great British public was wrong to vote for Brexit and is determined to reverse it. Like Mandelson, he betrays this country to promote himself. Mandelson should lose his peerage and Starmer should lose his knighthood.

Dr Peter Outen,
Brentwood, Essex

Charge Mandelson with treason after revelations

MY USUAL routine in the evening is to watch News At Ten and then retire for the night, but that routine did not apply on Monday.

The coverage of the Jeffrey Epstein/Peter Mandelson relationship together with the copies of documents released by the US Government led me to believe that Lord Mandelson should be charged with treason, or would that be dismissed by his friend, the Prime Minister of the UK?

Anne Wallace,
Whaley Bridge, Derbys

How did ex-grandee ever get pass into the Lords?

GIVEN the amount of scandal attached to Peter Mandelson in his career, I wonder whose bright idea in the Labour Party was it to give him a peerage in the first place?

John Kennedy,
Hornchurch, Essex

We voted for Brexit, now give us what we all want

THE Daily Express crusade to ("Now you must give Britain a proper Brexit", January 31) has my 100% support.

It is outrageous that the Brexit victory in the 2016 referendum is being so shamefully disregarded by Keir Starmer.

I earnestly hope that Reform UK candidate Matt Goodwin will be the winner in the Gorton and Denton by-election.

Will Forrow,
Dawlish, Devon

Electorate wasn't tricked – just cheated by leaders

KEIR Starmer is deluded if he thinks voters were tricked into leaving the EU, but what is perfectly obvious is that Brexit hasn't lived up to its full potential due to people like him holding it back ("PM wants to 'rewind' freedom Brexit gave us", February 2). The sooner we can get rid of Starmer the better.

Andrew Tiffin,
Tiptree, Essex

Starmer's pathetic China jolly was the last straw

THE "King of Capitulation" of this shambolic government has proven he, and they, are not fit to govern our country. The PM's trip to China, where he finished up being shown around by a "tour guide" shows exactly his standing in the world, which sees him as a weak and pretty useless ("Kemi: All PM has to show is China doll", February 3).

Keir Starmer has lost all credibility with the majority of the public, they see him as a disaster who is destroying their country and they want an election to remove the Labour Government.

Tony Moore,
Southport, Merseyside

LETTER OF THE DAY

UNDER FIRE: Lord Mandelson features in Epstein files

So how did Mandy get past checks?

THERE is one particular aspect of the latest political furore emanating from the release of the Jeffrey Epstein files that puzzles me; and that is we hear so much about vetting for this, that and the other positions and roles in political circles, but where were the security services in the case of Peter Mandelson ("MPs demand police investigate 'leaks of government secrets' by Lord Mandelson", February 2)?

Were they asleep at the wheel? Were they too busy seeking out subversives in our universities and unions at the time?

I really think we should be told what happened, after all we seem to spend enough money on them.

Mike MacRory-Wilson,
Brighton

Tories can't afford to wave the white flag in Gorton

UNDER no circumstances should the Conservative Party step aside in the Gorton and Denton by-election to maximise any chance of a Reform UK win ("Kemi must yield to Reform if Right is to win by-election", February 2).

Bending the knee to national paper polls indicating popularity is no way to ensure the right person wins the seat for local constituents.

Parachuting a TV personality or hyper-supported figure may seem attractive but that personality will be selling his party leadership, not his ability to serve those who vote for them.

Warren Browning,
Rugby, Warks

Ukraine is being forgotten after four years of terror

REPORTS in the Daily Express state heartbreaking stories of what the Ukrainian people are going through because of Russian attacks ("Ukrainians wear defiance sparingly after four years", February 3).

Blackouts, no water and no heating with temperatures down to -26C. There are no protests for these people either. I know peaceful protests can't help but they do let other nations we care about them.

Anne Jones,
Stalybridge, Cheshire

Students mis-sold loans they can never pay back

WITH more and more students getting into debt before they set off on their careers, were these student loans mis-sold ("Martin Lewis issues warning to people with student loans", January 31)?

Did these young people fully understand the high cost of borrowing at a time of possibly their very first "adult" decision?

Were advisers culpable of mis-selling when young students were vulnerable, financially unaware, with an eye focused on a university education promoted by government without recognising the downside?

Many thousands are now saddled with a lifetime of debt. Has the time come to challenge the mis-selling, make all student loans interest-free or offered at base rate with payments aimed to give them a chance to clear the debt?

These loans have badly impacted thousands of our young people, causing fear, rage and worry at a time when they at the beginning of their lives. This is unfair.

Brett Trafford,
Vyne Park, Hants

We can't just wave dying bill through on the nod

WE READ about the wonderful news of a man with "incurable" stage 4 lung cancer, whose cancer has gone due to an NHS drug ("'I prepared for the worst... here I am six years on'", February 2).

I am undecided about the wording and implications of the assisted dying bill, but given Dame Esther Rantzen is still alive due to a "wonder drug" and many questions remain unanswered, then surely it is right to make sure that this bill is not waved through without the proper scrutiny it deserves.

David Johnston,
Belfast

STOP THE CHANNEL INVASION - BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

THE main problem in this country is the illegal migrant boat crossings ("Crackdown launched on 'truly sickening' online crossings ads", February 2).

It impacts on our finances, safety and our communities. It impacts on the morale of the country because of the unwillingness to tackle this invasion shows that we have no borders. The only solution offered is to persuade migrants not to come – that will not work. A national emergency must be declared. Stop the boats from entering UK waters using whatever means required.

Terence Cockerill,
Felixstowe, Suffolk

TODAY: Wednesday February 4, 2026

ON THIS DAY

DAILY EXPRESS
MOSCOW THIS MONTH
Macmillan is invited by Mr K
HUME WAS PLANNING TO WED

67 years ago (1959)
Prime Minister Harold Macmillan accepted an invitation to Moscow in a bid to expand Anglo-Soviet trade and cultural ties and secure peace between the countries.

In other news, rock 'n' roll stars Buddy Holly, 22, the Big Bopper (JP Richardson), 28 and Ritchie Valens, 17, died when their plane crashed in a snowstorm shortly after taking off from Mason City, Iowa.

81 years ago (1945)
PM Winston Churchill, US President Franklin D Roosevelt and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin attended the Yalta Conference held on the Crimean Peninsula.

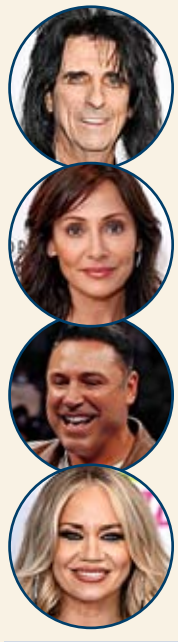
It was the second of the three great meetings of the Allied war leaders and it was intended to shape post-war Europe.

22 years ago (2004)
Facebook was launched in the US by Mark Zuckerberg and a group of Harvard college students.

Originally Called TheFacebook, Zuckerberg and Eduardo Saverin agreed to invest $1,000 each in the social networking site.

Initially limited to Harvard students, it was opened to anyone over 13 in 2006 and now has more than three billion users.

BIRTHDAYS



Alice Cooper is 78. He is a golf fanatic. Torn singer **Natalie Imbruglia** is 51. She got her break in Neighbours. Former boxer **Oscar De La Hoya** is 53. He won multiple world titles in six weight classes. Ex-Pussycat Dolls singer **Kimberly Wyatt** is 44. She won Celebrity MasterChef in 2015.

TODAY'S GIGGLE

I'll never date another apostrophe – the last one was too possessive.

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Day 6	**Barcelona, Spain**
Day 7	**La Seyne-Sur-Mer (for Toulon), France**
Day 8	**La Spezia (for Florence/Pisa), Italy**

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Day 9	**Civitavecchia (for Rome), Italy**
Day 11	**Alicante, Spain**
Day 15	**Arrive in Southampton**

Itinerary is based on 12th April 2026 departure. Days not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

You feel worried about someone's well-being. You find it easy to put the needs of others in front of your own. You're becoming involved in group activities. A charitable cause has inspired you and keeps you motivated to do what you can to help others. This could be something connected to children, igniting a spark of hope in your community.

For more call **0905 789 4171**
(80p/min + network access charge)

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

You might expect a raise or recognition for your past hard work. Your progress and contributions have made a positive impression on those in high places. They appreciate your efforts and this could lead to increased pay or improved working conditions. Single? Romance with a colleague is possible, igniting a spark that could brighten your daily routine.

For more call **0905 789 4172**
(80p/min + network access charge)

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

A relative or housemate has been taking advantage of your kindness. A situation needs to be turned around so you are the one in control. While someone might not appreciate this more assertive version of you, it is for your own well-being. Embracing this change will empower you, fostering a sense of strength that others will eventually come to respect.

For more call **0905 789 4173**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 23

Get started on plans related to finances, legal affairs and property. Anything important involving children in your care can be carefully considered. Because you are aware of what is happening around you, nothing will go unnoticed. You are on top of your game. This clarity will guide you to make insightful decisions that reflect your values.

For more call **0905 789 4174**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LEO JULY 24-AUG 23

Cosmic forces infuse your life with romance and creativity. Even so, it's important to remain grounded and avoid misinterpreting some situations. Embrace the enchantment around you, but let your intuition guide you through any swirling uncertainties. You may have to work on your approach to achieve the same results with less effort.

For more call **0905 789 4175**
(80p/min + network access charge)

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 23

The Moon supports your personal ambitions. An incident that takes you by surprise could benefit you greatly. Although emotions are heightened, this will not be in an unpleasant way. You will notice a sense of harmony in your environment and in your conversations. The positive energy around you may lead to unexpected opportunities.

For more call **0905 789 4176**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LIBRA SEPT 24-OCT 23

It pays to remember that overthinking can be counterproductive. In all areas and aspects of your life, it is important for you to remain calm and objective. Look at matters concerning your home and family from different angles. The more you are willing to do this, the better your chances of resolving a situation before it spirals out of control.

For more call **0905 789 4177**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

Conversations with neighbours and other members of your community will be interesting and you will want to know more. Someone has some intriguing news to share. An introduction could lead to the start of a great friendship. A casual relationship could evolve into romance. Everything feels new, stirring a sense of adventure within you.

For more call **0905 789 4178**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

Make the most of any chance you get to improve your living space. Think about buying lovely items for your home. Make a start on that redecorating project you have been talking about. Your relationships with family are strong. Don't hesitate to express your affection to those around you. This warmth will only deepen your connections.

For more call **0905 789 4179**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

Romance, creative pastimes, travel for pleasure and parties bring out the best in you. You have some wonderful friends and you are starting to realise how lucky you are. You're happy to have some fun, which makes this a great time to socialise or entertain people in your home. These connections will enrich your spirit and create cherished memories.

For more call **0905 789 4180**
(80p/min + network access charge)

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

It is in no way being selfish for you to start concentrating on your deepest desires. Prioritise these above everything else and you will achieve your goals. With the support that surrounds you along with a touch of luck, your hopes can become reality so start dreaming. The possibilities that lie ahead could lead you to treasures you never imagined.

For more call **0905 789 4181**
(80p/min + network access charge)

PISCES FEB 20-MARCH 20

The time has arrived to free yourself from any limitations that are keeping you from moving forward. If you can't manage to do this now, you may as well just give up on this idea. The planets provide you with the motivation you need to change your life. Your spirit yearns for liberation and the universe is poised to support your journey toward transformation.

For more call **0905 789 4182**
(80p/min + network access charge)

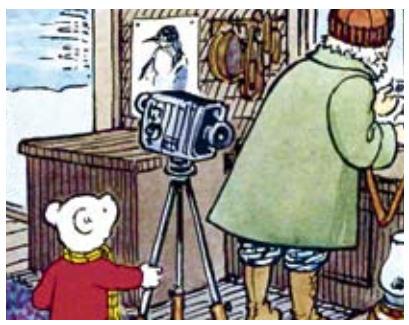
Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge - maximum of 5 minutes duration. You must be over 18 and have the bill payer's permission. Service provider Spoke. Helpline 0333 202 3390

NUTWOOD TALES

RUPERT AND THE PENGUINS No.32

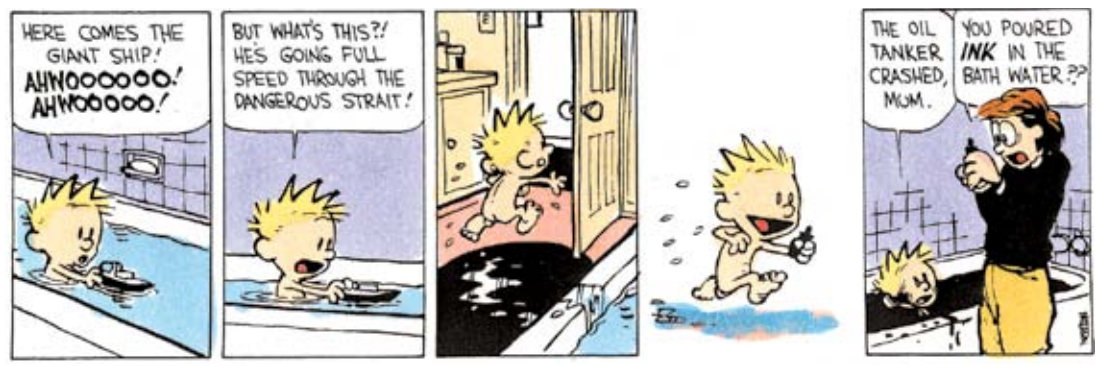
"King Penguin's coming out! It's true! He wants us all to watch him, too!"

"Quick! I must make a film of this! Such an event's too rare to miss!?"



Rupert finds the explorer beside the rocky pool. "Well, did the idea work?" the captain asks as Rupert returns the two chess kings to him. "Oh, yes, splendidly," replies the little bear. "The King believes that he has now received five royal callers and is about to leave the cave!" "Good, that's just what I've been waiting for," says the explorer and he leads Rupert into the shack where a cine-camera is set up. "We mustn't miss this!"

CALVIN AND HOBBES
BILL WATTERSON


HERE COMES THE GIANT SHIP! AHWOOOOOO! AHWOOOOO!
BUT WHAT'S THIS?! HE'S GOING FULL SPEED THROUGH THE DANGEROUS STRAIT!
THE OIL TANKER CRASHED, MOM.
YOU POURED INK IN THE BATH WATER??

FAITH, HOPE AND SUE
LISA WILD

POWERED BY CITY A.M.

City & Business

AT A GLANCE

STOCK MARKET			
FTSE 100	10314.6	▼	-27.0
FTSE 250	23290.4	▼	-135.7
FTSE ALL SHARE	5555.6	▼	-16.3
Shares Traded	12094.7 million		

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE		
BAE Systems	1931½	+9½
Barclays	501½	+2
BP	466½	+4¾
BT Group	194	+1½
GSK	1945½	+20½
Lloyds Banking Group	112½	+1¼
Marks & Spencer Group	375¼	+5¼
National Grid	1256	+15½
NatWest Group	694¼	+10¼
Rolls-Royce Holdings	1235½	+5
Saga	578	+28
Sainsbury (J)	326	+3
Shell	2789½	+10
Tesco	435½	+4
Unilever	5045	+53
Vodafone Group	111½	+2¼

POPULAR SHARES UNCHANGED	
Centrica	192

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE		
Abrdn	217¾	-2½
AstraZeneca	13816	-224
Aviva	647¼	-4¼
HSBC Holdings	1301	-4
Int Consolidated Airlines	433	-¼
Whitbread	2689	-58

WORLD MARKETS			
WALL STREET	49,240.9	▼	-166.7
TOKYO	54720.7	▲	+2065.5
HONG KONG	26834.8	▲	+59.2
GERMANY	24780.8	▼	-16.7
FRANCE	8179.5	▼	-1.7

STERLING VALUE			
Dollar	1.370	▲	+0.004
Yen	213.212	▲	+0.542
Euro	1.159	▶	0.000

DOLLAR VALUE			
Dollar/Yen	155.580	▼	-0.0406
Dollar/Euro	0.846	▼	-0.0024

COMMODITIES		
GOLD($)	▲	4945.26
KRUGERRAND(£)	▲	3596.51
SILVER(pence)	▲	6210.32
BRENT CRUDE($)	▲	67.42

OTHER INDICATORS	
Base rate	3.75%
Halifax mortgage rate	5.95%
Retail Price Index	+4.2% (CPI +3.4%)
House price Index	+2.5%
Unemployment	1,840,000

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TOURIST'S POUND

Australia	1.90 dollar
Canada	1.82 dollar
China	8.90 renminbi
Czech Rep.	26.42 koruna
Denmark	8.21 krone
Eurozone	1.14 euro
Hong Kong	10.05 dollar
Hungary	413.09 forint
Israel	3.97 shekel
Japan	204.21 yen
Jordan	0.91 dinar
Mexico	22.45 peso
New Zealand	2.20 dollar
Norway	12.77 krone
Poland	4.65 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.89 riyal
South Africa	20.94 rand
Sweden	11.63 krona
Switzerland	1.03 franc
Thailand	41.28 baht
Turkey	55.33 lira
United States	1.35 dollar

Rolls-Royce roars into life after Trump tariffs tumble

BY **SAMUEL NORMAN**

SHARES in aerospace giant Rolls-Royce were soaring to an all-time high yesterday after recovering from a US tariffs salvo which had sent the City giant's stock tumbling.

The FTSE 100 titan's stock was up 1.6% to 1,250.50p yesterday morning, making it one of the top risers on the blue-chip index.

The Derbyshire-headquartered group, which is worth £105bn, has been hailed as one of the London stock market's top stocks after gaining more than 100% last year.

But the firm has faced several hits from US President Donald Trump.

Trade decisions have rocked the aero firm

His latest trade offensive slapped sweeping 10% levies across the US's Nato peers for their staunch defence of Greenland.

Rolls-Royce slumped some 8%, with its stock price losing more than 100p in the week that followed, as tension flared over Greenland's sovereignty.

Trump announced the latest instance of a "Taco" trade – Trump Always Chickens Out – on January 22.

Despite this, Rolls-Royce shares took another, more modest tumble again last week after announcing it had won a Delta Air Lines order for 62 new engines. Rolls-Royce's rally yesterday follows the firm notching an all-time high of 1,305.00p in mid-January.

Last year, in the midst of Trump's original Liberation Day tariff onslaught the stock fell to lows of 659.00 as exporters felt the crunch of the White House's erratic trade policy.

Rolls-Royce lost some 19% in the week Trump took to the White House gardens with a sandwich board that slapped sweeping levies on the US's trading partners.

After Trump rowed back, the blue-chip continued its rally, finishing the year with a stock price of 1,150.00p.

The firm entered the top five most valuable companies on the London Stock Exchange and is chomping at the heels of Unilever, which is inches in front at a £108bn market cap.

Last month, HSBC overtook AstraZeneca to become the City market's most valuable firm.

WAYMO FUNDS DRIVE BEFORE UK LAUNCH

Waymo robo taxis are due to arrive on the streets in the UK this year

ALPHABET-owned Waymo has raised £12.6bn, valuing the self-driving vehicle firm at £92bn, as its London launch edges closer.

The investment round comes as Waymo carries out tests on the streets of the capital.

London is expected to be one of more than 20 new cities the firm enters globally through 2026, alongside Tokyo.

In the UK, ministers have backed the trials as a way to modernise transport and attract global tech investment.

Waymo said the funding reflects the firm's shift from experimentation to scale, after tripling annual ride volume to 15 million last year.

As competition from Tesla and Amazon's Zoox venture hots up, Waymo has confirmed it is now running more than 400,000 paid robotaxi trips a week across six American cities.

Irn-Bru maker's shares rose

AG Barr is fizzing after pair of tasty acquisitions

THE drinks merchant behind Irn-Bru is forecasting a major boost to profit after stripping back costs and snapping up a pair of its soft-drink rivals.

AG Barr, which owns brands such as Boost, Funkin Cocktails and Rubicon, sealed a near-£38m deal to buy Fentimans on Monday, funded through a combination of cash and debt. The Hexham-based business specialises in premium botanically brewed soft drinks, mixers and tonics.

AG Barr will also begin integrating Devon-based juice business Frobishers, which it bought for £13m. Shares rose 6% to 691p yesterday. Chief executive Euan Sutherland said: "We enter the 2026 financial year with good momentum." In its trading update yesterday, the firm reported revenue had grown by nearly 4% to £437m while its operating margin had increased by 110 basis points, driven by "benefits from ongoing cost efficiency".

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	3249	-84	4459	2999
A.B. Foods	1873½	-41½	2337	1838
Admiral Group	†			
Airtel Africa	324	-3	372¾	135½
Alliance Trust	1256	-14	1322	1050
Anglo American	3700	+250	3700	2003¾
Antofagasta	3868	+228	3889	1383
Ashtead Group	4806#	-14	5594	3659
AstraZeneca	13816	-224	14346	9667
Auto Trader	506¼	-25½	908½	498½
Aviva	647¼	-4¼	692½	493
Babcock International	1468	+44	1502	541
BAE Systems	1931½	+9½	2093	1180½
Barclays	501½	+2	504¼	241¾
Barratt Development	394¼	+4	482¼	350
Beazley Group	1160	-8	1170	769
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4164	+6	4324	3524
BP	466½	+4¾	476¼	331¾
British Amer.Tob	4506#	+74	4514	2965
British Land	418	+3½	420½	321¼
BT Group	194#	+1½	222¾	141¾
Bunzl	2050	-6	3442	1989
Burberry Group	1073	-26	1371½	627¾
Centrica	192		193	135¼
Coca-Cola HBC	4068	+44	4080	2866
Compass Group	2164#	-84	2843	2159
Convatec Group	223½	-8½	295½	209½
CRH	9220	+156	9704	6142
Croda International	2713	-7	3311	2465
DCC	4640	-10	5495	4350
Diageo	1697	+27½	2365	1577
Diploma	5325	-50	5685	3624
EasyJet	490½	-½	587¾	427½
Entain	586½	-14½	1022	501¼
Experian Group	2555#	-185	4088	2462
F&C Inv Tst	1247	-10	1272	962
Flutter Entert.	11355	-770	23630	11350
Fresnillo	3902	+234	4448	709½
Games Workshop	16770	-400	19840	12410
GlaxoSmithKline	1945½	+20½	1945½	1264
Glencore	517¼	+16¼	520	230
Haleon	384½	+1¾	415¼	326½
Halma	3546	-8	3710	2360
Hikma	1554	+3	2340	1507
Hiscox	1483	-9	1528	1035
HSBC Holdings	1301	-4	1309	713¼
IMI	2826		2890	1606
Imperial Brands	3161	+79	3312	2667
Informa	835½	-49½	993½	640¼
InterContinental Htl	9938	-4102	10288¼	5419
Intermediate Cap.Grp	1656	-148	2450	1569
Intertek Group	4386	-114	5385	4064
Intl Consolidated Airlines	433	-¼	437	224½
JD Sports	82¼	-4½	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	338	-2½	343	240¼
Land Securities	652	+2½	656	499½
Legal & General	269	+1½	271½	215¼
Lloyds Banking Grp	112½	+1¼	113½	61¼
London & Stamford Prop	200	-¼	204½	170½
London Stock Ex	7180	-1054	12095	7124
M&G	312¾	-¼	315½	172¾
Marks & Spencer	375¼	+5¼	411¼	318½
Melrose	617¾	-3½	680	386
Mondi	857¼	+3½	1326	819
National Grid	1256	+15½	1256	919¾
NatWest Group	694¼	+10¼	698½	411¼
Next	12800	-645	14580	9584
Pearson	894½	-75	1379	889½
Pershing Square Hold	4476	-140	5090	3244
Persimmon	1447	+21½	1449½	1037½
Phoenix Group	751½	+3½	752½	499¼
Prudential	1220	+14	1237	655
Reckitt Benckiser	6127#	-55	6218	7½ 6017
RELX	2214	-371	4135	2142
Rentokil Initial	462	+6¾	480¾	309½
Rightmove	469	-26¼	823¾	469
Rio Tinto	7038	+236	7038	4117
Rolls-Royce Group	1235½	+5	1305	593½
Sage Group	871#	-94½	1340½	871
Sainsbury (J)	326	+3	355¾	228¾
Schroders	458¼	+2½	467	289¼
Scottish Mortgage	1250	-17	1298½	815¼
SEGRO	762	+1¾	765	599
Severn Trent	2943	+15	2943	2370
Shell	2789½	+10	2931½	2291½
Smith & Nephew	1250	-½	1435	937¾
Smiths Group	2550	+18	2638	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3030	-34	4454	2558
Spirax-Sarco	7285	-70	7980	5445
SSE	2435	+24	2447	1463½
St James's Place	1553	+10½	1575½	791
Standard Chartered	1879	-27	1924	878¾
Tesco	435½	+4	475½	314½
Unilever	5045	+53	6177½	4631
United Utilities	1258	+10	1258	944½
Vodafone Group	111½#	+2¼	111½	64
Weir Group	3354	+108	3354	1984
Whitbread	2689	-58	3274	2335

PepsiCo sales flat as bubble bursts

PEPSI parent PepsiCo is slashing prices on Lay's, Doritos, Cheetos and Tostitos chips to win back customers exasperated by recent price hikes.

PepsiCo leaned on consumers as costs rose, upping fourth quarter prices by 4.5% globally.

That pumped up revenue, including in the most recent quarter, which bounced 5.6% to $29.3billion.

But the price hikes have also weakened demand, with consumers cutting back or swapping out brands for cheaper versions.

PepsiCo said it planned to cut prices and trim nearly 20% of its product offerings in a deal with activist investor Elliott Investment Management.

Adjusted for one-time items, PepsiCo earned $2.26 per share in the fourth quarter, higher than analysts expected.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

SHARES AT A GLANCE

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Aerospace & Defence				
Avon Rubber	1728	+4	2180	1338
Babcock International	1468	+44	1502	541
BAE Systems	1931½	+9½	2093	1180½
Chemring Group	508	+7	593	297½
QinetiQ Group	494¼#	+½	572	361
Rolls-Royce Group	1235½	+5	1305	593½
Senior	247½	+6½	253	115¾
Alternative Energy				
Porvair	872	+12	900	626
Banks				
Barclays	501½	+2	504¼	241¾
Bco Santander	962	+17	973	400½
Close Brothers	505		550½	266½
HSBC Holdings	1301	-4	1309	713¼
Investec	615	-2	625	414
Lloyds Banking Grp	112½	+1¼	113½	61¼
Metro Bank	135¼	+¾	136½	81
NatWest Group	694¼	+10¼	698½	411¼
Paragon Group	898	+4	970	686½
Standard Chartered	1879	-27	1924	878¾
Beverages				
Barr (AG)	687	+37	714	593
Coca-Cola HBC	4068	+44	4080	2866
Diageo	1697	+27½	2365	1577
Chemicals				
Carclo	53	+1	80	21
Croda International	2713	-7	3311	2465
Elementis	164	-2	176½	115
Johnson Matthey	2380#	+80	2388	1156
Synthomer	52¾	-½	154¾	46
Treatt	205	-1½	444	186½
Victrex	666#	+17	1048	589
Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty	730	-1	739½	390½
Costain Group	181¼	+1½	182½	94
CRH	9220	+156	9704	6142
Dialight	326	-5	364	101
Galliford Try	533	-5	547	321
Gleeson (MJ)	390	-6	538	320
Keller Group	1822	+4	1834	1240
Kier Group	226	-4	231½	115¼
Marshalls	160	+2	293	156½
Morgan Sindall	4980	-120	5190	2945
Severfield-Rowen	29		52¼	19
Smart (J) & Co	132½		139	110
Electricity				
Drax Group	906½	-6	918	536½
SSE	2435	+24	2447	1463½
Telecom Plus	1326		2085	1316¼
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Acal	624	-11	738	486
Halma	3546	-8	3710	2360
Oxford Instruments	2470	-40	2560	1500
Renishaw	3695	-95	3875	2145
TT Electronics	119	+1½	154	73
XP Power	1320	+66	1327	621
Equity Investment Instruments				
Aberdeen Asian Sml	391	+9	392¾	256
Aberforth Smll.Co.	1690	-8	1702	1212
Acorn Income				
Albion Tech.& Gen. VCT	66		71	65½
Alliance Trust	1256	-14	1322	1050
Aurora Inv.Tst.	272	-2	279	212½
AVI Global Tst	260	-3½	266½	202
Baillie Gifford Japan	895	-1	951	657
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip	135½	+½	138½	95½
Bankers Inv.Tst	132¼#	-1½	136	101
Baronsmead VCT 2	48½		52	46½
BH Macro GBP	421	+4	422½	371½
Biotech Growth Trust	1250	+25	1285	620
BlackRock Mining	934	+43	1022	406½
Bluehone AiM VCT 2	28¼		31	28¼
British Assets Tst	27¾		49¼	26¼
Brunner Inv.Tst.	1450	-10	1490	1140
Caledonia Inv.	3641/2	-3	3911/2	3341/2
City Natural Res.Yld	389	+23	435	165¾
City Of London	553#	-2	557	411½
Dunedin Ent.IT.				
Dunedin Income	308	-1	312	262
Edin Wwide Inv	227½	-2½	232½	143
Edin.Inv.Tst.	795#	-11	839	680
Edin.US Tracker	387	+2	390½	289½
Elderstreet VCT	38¾		41	36½
F&C Cap&Inc.	350	-3	354	287
F&C Inv Tst	1247	-10	1272	962
F&C Smaller Cos	182	-½	184¾	136½
F&C US Smaller Companies	1375	-10	1480	1115
Fidelity Asian	626	+8	631	454
Fidelity European	426½	-7	436	338½
Fidelity Special	445	+1½	447	295½
Finsbury Gwth&In	731	-49	961	731
Foresight Tech.VCT	65½		75½	62
Genesis E.M.F.	1188	+10	1206	632
Graphite Ent	1530	-34	1600	1070
Hansa Tst 'A'	276	+2	278	190
Hansa Tst Plc	279	+2	282	192½
Henderson Far Est	246½#	+2	256	190½
Henderson High Inc	196		198½	151
Herald Inv.Tst.	2515	-25	2640	1738
HGCapital Tst.	405	-50	538	398½
HSBC Infrastructure	117½	-1¾	125¼	106
Impax Env.Mkt.	408	-3½	431	310½
Int.Biotech.Tst.	946	+10	996	480
International Public	127½	-1¼	130	107¾
Invesco Asia.	436	-2	447	300
Invesco Perp UK	384	-5	391	313½
JPM American	1108	-20	1168	869
JPM Asian	491½#	+3½	496	331½
JPM Claverhouse	882#	-2	892	660
JPM Emerg Mkt	146¾#	-¼	148	95
JPM Euro Sml Co.	626#	-5	635	444½
JPM Global Emerging	185	+1	186	118½
JPM Indian	976#	+31	1106	904
JPM Japanese	739#	-4	759	493
JPM Overseas IT	574	-10	609	480
JPM Smaller Co	344½	+1	346½	253
JPM US Sml Co.	408	-3	508	338
Jupiter Euro.	889	-27	959	757
JZ Capital Partners	184		220	184
Law Debenture	1144	-4	1156	788
Lowland Invest Co	174	+1	176	114½
Majedie Inv.	272	-8	286	230
Manchester&Lon.	744	-26	944	512
Martin Currie Prtflo Tst.	342	-6	382	295
Maven Income And Growth VCT 34½			38	33½
Mercantile Inv Tst	267#	-2	272	202½
Merchants Tst	636	+2	638	474
Mid Wynd Int.	752	-20	825	664
Monks Inv.Tst.	1508	-16	1554	1036
Montanaro Euro Tst.	165	-1	183½	138
Montanaro Uk	105#	-½	106½	87¾
Murray Inc.Tst.	922	-12	938	754
Murray Int.Tst	345½#	+2½	346	239
New India	748	+30	832	686
New Star Inv.Tst.	128	+½	131	100
North Atl.Smlr.Tst	360	+1	402	318
Northern 2 VCT	53½		57	52½
Northern Venture	56½		58½	55½
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	7		7	5½
Pacific Assets.	381	+8	383	302
Pacific Horizon	888	-2	901½	507
Pantheon Int.	373	-6	389	266
Pershing Square Hold	4476	-140	5090	3244
Polar Cap.Tech	494	-6	506	255½
RCM Technology Trust	534	-15	554	307
RIT Capital Partners	2190	-45	2275	1722
Ruffer Investment.	301	-3½	308	272½
Schroder Asia	698#	-1	706	461½
Schroder Inc.	355		359	255
Schroder Japan	326	+4	334	209
Schroder UK	206	-2	211	158½
Schroder UK M&S	738#		756	520
Scottish American	518	-5	525	454½
Scottish Mortgage	1250	-17	1298½	815¼
Shires Inc.	318	-7	326	222
Small Comp Div.Tst	137	+1	150	124
Standard Life Equity	426	-1	428	288½
Standard Life UK Sml	517	-4	531	426
Temple Bar.	388½	-½	391½	258
Templeton Emrg.	263	+2	264	151¾
The European Inv.Tst	106#	-2½	111½	84
Throgmorton Tst.	661	-4	669	469
TR Euro.Growth	223½#	-2	229½	163
TR Prop. IT	330½	-2½	338½	277½
Witan Pacific	313	-1	322	223
Wwide Healthcare	364	-3	397	265½
Financial Services				
3i Group	3249	-84	4459	2999
3i Infrastructure.	348	-9½	385	301
Abrdn.	217¾	-2½	225¼	123¾
Ashmore Group	241½		245	125
Guinness Peat Group	85¼	-1½	92½	68¼
IG Group	1354	-19	1388	913
Intermediate Cap.Grp.	1656	-148	2450	1569
International Pers Fin	233	-1	237	121½
IP Group	59¼	-1¾	65	34¾
Jupiter Fund Man.	193½	-½	196	68
Liontrust Asset Man	233½	-4½	458	231½
London Stock Ex.	7180	-1054	12095	7124
M&G	312¾	-¼	315½	172¾
Man Group	261½	-2½	271¾	154¾
Provident Financial	119½	-1½	128½	51
Rathbone Brothers	2200	-35	2245	1406
S & U	2400	+70	2410	1330
Schroders	458¼	+2½	467	289¼
St James's Place	1553	+10½	1575½	791
Tullett Prebon.	251½	-8	311½	228
Walker Crips Group	13	-½	14	7½
Fixed Line Telecommunications				
Airtel Africa	324	-3	372¾	135½
BT Group.	194#	+1½	222¾	141¾
Food & Drug Retailers				
Greggs	1621	-22	2182	1418
Marks & Spencer	375¼	+5¼	411¼	318½
Ocado	232¼	+20½	395½	172¼
Sainsbury (J)	326	+3	355¾	228¾
Tesco	435½	+4	475½	314½
Food Producers				
A.B. Foods.	1873½	-41½	2337	1838
Anglo-Eastern	1520	+20	1525	650
Carr's Milling	130½#	-6½	157	117
Cranswick.	5280	-50	5490	4625
Glanbia	1441		1441	785¼
Greencore Group	301½#	+4½	302	169¼
Kerry Grp 'A' Shs.	6350¼	-120¾	8714½	6143¼
Premier Foods	191	+1¼	214½	167
REA Holdings	133	-2	137½	61½
Tate & Lyle	378	+½	656	358
Gas, Water & Multiutilities				
Centrica	192		193	135¼
National Grid	1256	+15½	1256	919¾
Pennon Group	548½#	+2½	565	387½
Severn Trent	2943	+15	2943	2370
United Utilities	1258	+10	1258	944½
General Industrials				
Bunzl	2050	-6	3442	1989
Goodwin	27400	+1600	27500	6180
Melrose	617¾	-3½	680	386
Mondi.	857¼	+3½	1326	819
Smiths Group	2550	+18	2638	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3030	-34	4454	2558
General Retailers				
ASOS.	294½	-35½	406¼	218½
Auto Trader	506¼	-25½	908½	498½
B&M Europ Value Ret	175	-3	344½	155¼
Caffyns.	415		500	415
Dixons Carphone	149¾	+¼	152¾	85¼
Dunelm	915	-21	1232	858½
Frasers Group	697	-13½	770	546
Halfords Group	148¾	-2¾	174½	116¼
Headlam Group.	42½	-1	129¼	42½
Howden Joinery	849½	-7½	914½	679½
Inchcape.	823½	+2	825½	638
JD Sports	82¼	-4½	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	338	-2½	343	240¼
Next.	12800	-645	14580	9584
Pets At Home	212	+2¼	273¼	192¾
RM Group.	103	-2	115	82
Topps Tiles	42¾	+½	50	29
WH Smith.	667#	-24	1291	613½
Health Care Equipment & Services				
Convatec Group	223½	-8½	295½	209½
Flying Brands	+½		1¾	+½
Smith & Nephew	1250	-½	1435	937¾
Household Goods & Home Construction				
Barratt Development	394¼	+4	482¼	350
Bellway	2738	-6	2982	2166
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4164	+6	4324	3524
Bovis Homes	674¼	-2½	701	510¾
Mcbride.	153¾	-3	160½	107
Persimmon	1447	+21½	1449½	1037½
Reckitt Benckiser	6127#	-5516	2187½	6017
Taylor Wimpey	109½	+1¼	123¼	93
Industrial Engineering				
Bodycote	757	+10½	772	460½
Hill & Smith	2255	-30	2360	1530
IMI	2826		2890	1606
Morgan Crucible.	230	+½	274	177½
Northgate	386½	+1½	395	273½
Rotork	361½	+3	363½	275¾
Spirax-Sarco	7285	-70	7980	5445
Vesuvius	468½	+1½	479	313¾
Weir Group	3354	+108	3354	1984
Xaar.	108		145	59
Industrial Metals & Mining				
Castings.	268	-1½	319	234
Evraz.				
Ferrexpo	75¾	+1	108¾	44¼
Industrial Transportation				
Braemar Shipping Serv	216		275	201
Clarkson	4180	+30	4505	2995
FirstGroup	190	+1½	233	146½
Fisher (J) & Sons	450	+6	450	285
Leisure Goods				
Games Workshop.	16770	-400	19840	12410
Photo-Me Intl.	136½	-4¾	230	132
Life Insurance				
Aviva.	647¼	-4¼	692½	493
Chesnara.	312½	+½	314½	212¾
Legal & General.	269	+1½	271½	215¼
Phoenix Group	751½	+3½	752½	499¼
Prudential.	1220	+14	1237	655
Media				
4imprint Group	3990	-125	5900	3035
Bloomsbury Publish.	479	-15	664	468
Future.	525#	-16½	1029	492½
Informa	835½	-49½	993½	640¼
ITV	81¾	-1¾	87¾	66¼
Pearson	894½	-75	1379	889½
Reach	64	-3½	87½	53
STV Group	116	+1½	202	103
Wilmington Group.	294	-9	387	289
WPP Group	267	-35½	787¾	267
Mining				
Anglo American	3700	+250	3700	2003¾
Anglo Pacific.	141	+1¾	152½	50
Antofagasta.	3868	+228	3889	1383
BHP Billiton	2654	+107	2659	1609½
Endeavour Mining.	4272	+162	4542	1536
Fresnillo.	3902	+234	4448	709½
Gem Diamonds.	2¾	-¼	11¾	2¾
Glencore.	517¼	+16¼	520	230
Hochschild Mining.	692	+36½	750½	175½
Kenmare Res.	257½	+6	436	227
Petra Diamonds	14½	-1	30½	10½
Rio Tinto	7038	+236	7038	4117
Mobile Telecommunications				
Vodafone Group	111½#	+2¼	111½	64
Nonequity Investment Instruments				
Oryx Int.Gwth.	1330	+45	1392½	1042½
Rights &Iss.Inc	2070	-10	2220	1670
Nonlife Insurance				
Admiral Group.				
Beazley Group	1160	-8	1170	769
Hiscox.	1483	-9	1528	1035
Lancashire	618	-9	694	523
Oil & Gas Producers				
BP.	466½	+4¾	476¼	331¾
Cairn Energy	251	-4½	319½	183
Enquest	12¾		16½	9¾
Gulf Keystone Pet.	183½	+1½	224½	148¾
Harbour Energy.	229¼	+2¼	243¼	151¼
Shell	2789½	+10	2931½	2291½
Soco International	21	-¾	25	18
Tullow Oil	7¾	+¾	21½	4
Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution				
Hunting.	458	+14	466	246½
John Wood Group	26		71	17¼
Personal Goods				
Burberry Group.	1073	-26	1371½	627¾
PZ Cussons	75¾	+½	88¼	66
Unilever.	5045	+53	6177½	4631
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology				
AstraZeneca	13816	-224	14346	9667
Genus.	3060	+95	3160	1548
GlaxoSmithKline.	1945½	+20½	1945½	1264
Haleon.	384½	+1¾	415¼	326½
Hikma.	1554	+3	2340	1507
Ovoca Gold				
Oxford Biomedica	818	-12	913	232½
Real Estate Investment & Services				
Boot (Henry)	189	-1	237	189
Cardiff Property.	2700		2800	2540
CLS Holdings	62	-½	75	53½
Foxtons	52½		67¾	50¾
Harworth Group.	161½	-1½	189½	159½
Mountview Est.	8875	-25	10200	8700
Panther Secs.	290		315	280
Rightmove.	469	-26¼	823¾	469
Savills	1070	-4	1110	871
Wynnstay Props.	860		875	695
Real Estate Investment Trusts				
Big Yellow Group	1024	-10	1180	848
British Land.	418	+3½	420½	321¼
Capital & Counties	144½	-½	161¼	113½
Derwent London	1904	-1	2096	1608
Grainger	193½#		228	177½
Great Portland Est.	368½	+1½	374	262
Hammerson	352¾	-3	359¼	220½
Helical Bar	195¾	+4¾	240	174
Land Securities	652	+2½	656	499½
London & Stamford Prop	200	-¼	204½	170½
Primary Health.	104¼#	+½	106	87½
SEGRO	762	+1¾	765	599
Town Centre	125½	-2½	149	118
Unite Group	572½	-3	879½	510
Value & Income	200	-4	215	173
Workspace Group	420½		473½	362
Software & Computer Services				
Computacenter.	3288	-88	3398	2122
Intec Telecom.				
Microgen	246	-22	344	246
Moneysupermarket	179¾	-6¼	221½	179¾
Pendragon.	474½	-2	558	296
RELX	2214	-371	4135	2142
Sage Group.	871#	-94½	1340½	871
Triad Group.	291		400	240
Support Services				
Ashtead Group	4806#	-14	5594	3659
Capita Group	389	-6½	407½	175
DCC.	4640	-10	5495	4350
Diploma	5325	-50	5685	3624
Essentra.	99½	-¾	126¼	89¾
Experian Group	2555#	-185	4088	2462
Ferguson.	18730#	+170	19470	11670
Hays	46¼	-1	88¼	45
Intertek Group.	4386	-114	5385	4064
Johnson Service	142½	-1	159½	124
London Security.	2850		3800	2600
Macfarlane Group	71½	-½	120½	62¾
Mears Group.	357	-11	417½	311½
Michael Page	199¼	-6	341¼	193
Mitie Group.	171#	-½	172	112
Norish.	24		24	14
Paypoint.	530	-25	853	438½
Rentokil Initial	462	+6¾	480¾	309½
Robert Walters.	125	+2½	296	116
RS Group.	668	-7	677¾	487¼
Serco Group	301¼	+¼	305¼	152
SIG.	10	+¼	18	8½
Smiths News.	69¼#	+½	77½	47½
Speedy Hire.	25¾		32¼	18
SThree.	184¼	-8	278	137½
Travis Perkins	636	-4½	714	494
Trifast.	77	-1	87½	59
Vitec Group.	12½	+½	125	11
Technology Hardware & Equipment				
BATM Advanced	14¾	-½	19¾	13
Tobacco				
British Amer.Tob	4506#	+74	4514	2965
Imperial Brands.	3161	+79	3312	2667
Travel & Leisure				
888 Holdings	26¼	+1	73¾	21
Carnival.	2338	+5	2406	1134
Celtic.	195		200	142½
Compass Group	2164#	-84	2843	2159
Domino's Pizza.	180½	-2¾	302	167¼
EasyJet.	490½	-½	587¾	427½
Entain.	586½	-14½	1022	501¼
Flutter Entert.	11355	-770	23630	11350
Fuller Smith & Turner	688	+2	738	508
Heavitree	220		280	200
InterContinental Htl	9940¼	-310¼	10290¾	5420¼
Intl Consolidated Airlines	433	-¼	437	224½
Irish Continental Uts.	562½		575	380
Marston's	60½		69	33¼
Mitchells & Butlers.	263½	-4	291½	208½
National Express	23¾		71¾	21
Rank Group.	88½		160½	78
Saga	578	+28	578	117½
Wetherspoon (JD)	667	-9½	804	541
Whitbread	2689	-58	3274	2335
AIM				
Alumasc Group	250	+5	395	225
Arbuthnot Banking.	877½	-5	1100	837½
Boohoo.	23½	-¾	29	10½
Camellia	4945		6050	4090
Churchill China	435	-10	710	324
CML Microsystems.	252	+3	335	210
Colefax Group	1150		1170	750
CPP Group.	77¾	+¾	162	60
Cropper (James)	380		400	132½
Falkland Islands.	245#		316¾	162½
Fevertree Drinks	876	-11	998	671½
Filtronic.	186	+3	196	82½
James Halstead	141	+½	172½	133
Mothercare	1¾		4¼	1¾
Mpac Group	352	-3	554	270
Naked Wine.	73½	+½	93½	43
Nichols.	1030	-5	1465	930
Northamber	31#		34	26¼
Portmeirion.	95	-2½	189	90
Regal Petroleum	16½		23½	14½
Rockhopper Exploratn	74½	+1½	87¾	33½
Ten Alps	46		73	45
Titon Holdings.	95		97½	69
Volex.	438	-6	470	198¾
Young & Co Brewery A.	840	-12	992	714

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Racing

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Skelton's Lady is ready to Lord it

By **The Scout** (Melissa Jones)

THERE'S lots to like about SALLYVILLE LADY (3.33, Nap) in the Late Roy Kneller 85th Birthday Mares' Handicap Hurdle at Ludlow.

The point-to-point scorer has shaped nicely in a couple of novice hurdles at intermediate distances for Dan (right) and Harry Skelton.

My selection showed a likeable attitude to keep chasing Coolanna – a winner under a penalty since – on testing terrain at Uttoxeter in December.

A month earlier Sallyville Lady ran a solid race against the geldings, when she travelled sweetly into contention, and an opening mark of 111 looks more than fair.

WOLF RAYET (1.13, nb) is fancied to build on a positive showing at Cheltenham's Christmas meeting behind Triumph Hurdle contender Minella Study.

Camelot's son has enough ability to see off King Al, a horse rated in the 70s on the Flat, and Ascot eyecatcher Talakan in an interesting little heat.

Rodney is the one to beat in the Attwood Memorial Trophy Handicap Chase, but he has gone up 10lb – and CHARLES RITZ (2.58, trb) is more favourably treated for a trainer who targets races at the Shropshire venue.

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OLIVER'S GRAND PLAN FOR IROKO

By **Melissa Jones**

RANDOX Grand National favourite Iroko could line-up at the Cheltenham Festival as his co-trainers plot their route back to Aintree.

The JP McManus-owned chaser was best of the British runners last April – and the only horse not saddled by Willie Mullins to make the first five.

Atop 78 National entries when they were revealed yesterday, Iroko has proved popular in the ante-post market and is 7-1 with most bookmakers.

The eight-year-old gelding is the same price with William Hill for the Ultima Chase at Prestbury Park's racing extravaganza on March 10 – two points longer than stable and ownermate Jagwar (5-1).

Oliver Greenall, right, who shares the stable licence with Josh Guerriero, said: "The Ultima is a race we are considering. The others are the Ladbrokes Trophy at Kempton (February 21) and Kelso's Premier Chase (February 28), in which he finished second last year."

Iroko was in the winners' enclosure for the first time since November 2023 at Ascot in December, when he scored snugly in a three-runner graduation chase.

It came after he finished just two-and-a-half lengths behind subsequent King George VI Chase hero The Jukebox Man at Haydock.

"Iroko's form seems to be working out very well," Greenall added.

"The win should help boost his confidence, as they get used to following other horses when they haven't got their head in front for so long."

❒ HARRY COBDEN was stood down by the doctor yesterday after riding the Paul Nicholls trio Talk To The Man (11-4), Grand Vendetta (4-5f) and Beauty In The Park (8-11f) to victory at Taunton.

"Harry is just a bit sore," his agent Sam Stronge confirmed. "He should be back in action on Thursday."

ROUTE TO AINTREE: Iroko may run at Cheltenham before the Grand National

THE SCOUT

1.32 Follow Your Luck
2.07 Mersey Street
2.42 Prized Jet
3.17 Double Digits
3.52 Scudamore
4.28 Jukebox Joker

1.32 PAXTONS SINCE 1853 MAIDEN HURDLE
£5,446 (Class 4) 2m 3f 188yds (10 declared)

1	33L	ART DANCER (20) C Grant 5 11-6	R Chapman	47
2	L-	FEARLESS DRAGON (359) P Neville 5 11-6	J Williamson(3)	–
3	41-	● FOLLOW YOUR LUCK (318) P Neville 5 11-6	B Hughes	–
4	L34	INTENZO (20) M Walford 5 11-6	J Hamilton	103
5	225-35	NOBLE GEORGE (20) J Candlish 6 11-6	Sean Quinlan	100
6	SU5-154	SIOUX FALLS (27) E Williams 6 11-6	C Ring	101
7	21/211-4	SWINGINGONTHESTEEL (90) R Menzies 6 11-6	N Moscrop	94
8	2-55L	TEA BOY (39) P Atkinson 6 11-6	C Bewley	70
9	51L57	SHINEALIGHT (20) John Dawson 5 10-13	C Maggs(5)	110
10	UL42	DIVISION DAY (12) B Ellison 4 10-6	D McMenamin	★117

HOOD: Nos. 4, 7.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Swingingonthesteel, 13-8 Division Day, 7 Follow Your Luck, 10 Shinealight, 14 Sioux Falls, 20 Intenzo, 25 Noble George, 33 Fearless Dragon, 50 Others.
2025: Ridin Solo 7-11-6, Brian Hughes 13-8 JtFav (D McCain), 11 ran.

2.07 FAIRLIGHT STUDIOS HANDICAP CHASE
£3,248 (5) 2m 3f 65yds (8)

1	742PL-3	FORSA BAY (62) L Morgan 6 12-0	B Hughes	99
2	2U1653	TOO COOL FORSHRULE (20) Mrs J Stephen 7 11-12	J Thompson(5)	★103
3	L22313	BEGIN THE LUCK (16) (T) Daisy Hitchins 10 11-12	R David(7)	100
4	1222-44	IDEALLKO (39) E Williams 8 11-11	Isabel Williams	102
5	4P1LF-4	NATURAL ABILITY (72) (C) C Grant 8 11-9	D McMenamin	81
6	132132	HUIT REFLETS (10) (C,F) M Walford 9 11-5	J Hamilton	101
7	443L2F	● MERSEY STREET (14) (T) J & A O'Neill 8 11-0	Jonjo O'Neill Jr	99
8	U213-P5	PARAMARIBO (10) V Thompson 8 11-0	Miss P Brown(7)	–

VISOR: No. 6 TONGUE STRAP: No. 5 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 7, 8.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 3, 4, 8, 2.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Huit Reflets, 3 Mersey Street, 6 Forsa Bay, Too Cool Forshrule, 7 Begin The Luck, 8 Ideallko, 14 Natural Ability, 50 Paramaribo.
2025: Pilgrims King 9-11-7, Shane Fenelon(5) 5-1 (P & M Bowen), 6 ran.

SEDGEFIELD SKYSPORTSRACING

2.42 PAXTONS NO1 CASEIH DEALER H'CAP HDL
£3,248 (5) 2m 178yds (8)

1	44534	ANIMATO (40) D McCain 7 12-0	C Maggs(5)	98
2	24-35P7	SNAPIUS (15) (T) James Owen 7 11-12	A Chadwick(3)	★102
3	438UF6	● PRIZED JET (90) J Candlish 6 11-10	Sean Quinlan	97
4	856-551	VAMPIRE SLAYER (14) D Bourke 6 11-10	C Bewley	101
5	3LL6L3	LINDEN LANE (34) E Williams 6 11-9	Isabel Williams	100
6	0074-P	MEXICAN STAN (74) A Ralph 6 11-9	Lee Edwards	92
7	L-76840	ESTATE PLANNING (39) (T) B J Llewellyn 5 11-2	B Hughes	87
8	000/70L-	WARRIOR LION (F19) J Candlish 6 11-0	W Shanahan(5)	–

VISOR: Nos. 2, 4 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 7.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 4.

SP FORECAST: 3 Vampire Slayer, 4 Linden Lane, 5 Prized Jet, 11-2 Animato, 6 Warrior Lion, 7 Snapius, 14 Estate Planning, 16 Mexican Stan.
2025: Demoiselle Kap 7-11-12, Sean Quinlan 11-2 (J Candlish), 10 ran.

3.17 CHRIS BLANCKLEY HANDICAP CHASE
£4,700 (4) 2m 77yds (6)

1	L-3L111	SUPREME GEORGE (34) (D,F) D McCain 6 12-1	T Gillard	109
2	211-274	● DOUBLE DIGITS (40) A Hamilton 8 12-0	D McMenamin	104
3	3L1-87L	BOSTON BOY (45) (T) J & A O'Neill 7 11-9	Jonjo O'Neill Jr	82
4	3411-LP	RAFFLES WONDER (40) (C&D) R Menzies 9 11-9	R Corcoran(7)	★114
5	2313F1	SEA THRIFT (9) (T) Daisy Hitchins 7 10-10(7ex)	R David(7)	111
6	FB2L43	TREATY BOY (34) (D) W Coltherd 9 10-9	Sean Quinlan	113

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 5, 6 CHEEK PIECES: No. 3 HOOD: No. 4.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 4, 5, 6.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Supreme George, 2 Sea Thrift, 8 Boston Boy, Double Digits, 10 Treaty Boy, 12 Raffles Wonder.
2025: Master Breffni 7-11-6, Conor O'Farrell 11-8 Fav (M Hammond), 5 ran.

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

Midlands: RODNEY (2.58 Ludlow)
North: SPARTAN FIGHTER (5.30 Newcastle)
Newmarket: COURT OF SESSION (2.35 Kempton)
West: SEA THRIFT (3.17 Sedgefield)

3.52 HANDICAP HURDLE
£3,248 (5) 3m 3f 9yds (7)

1	27/5-F53	● SCUDAMORE (125) J Candlish 9 12-0	I J Power	92
2	PL43-P4	BALLIN BAY (13) R Menzies 8 12-0	N Moscrop	93
3	P96241	EAST EAGLE (34) (F) M Sowersby 6 11-4	C Maggs(5)	94
4	46P-LL2	DILLARCHIE (50) (C&D) J E Foster 9 11-4	Sean Quinlan	★98
5	612332-	HONEY I'M GOOD (457) E Williams 10 11-3	Miss E Williams(7)	–
6	7-53P4P	TOPKAPI STAR (54) (C) Ewan Whillans 9 11-2	P J Kavanagh	94
7	P-64L43	KING CASEY (13) J E Foster 6 11-1	B Hughes	96

BLINKERS: No. 6 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 5, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 4, 7.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 4, 6.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 East Eagle, 7-2 Dillarchie, 4 Honey I'm Good, 7 Scudamore, 8 King Casey, Ballin Bay, 14 Topkapi Star.
2025: Ocean Legacy 8-10-3, Nathan Moscrop 9-1 (R Menzies), 12 ran.

4.28 CANINE PREMIER FLEX HANDICAP HURDLE
£3,248 (5) 2m 3f 188yds (9)

1	555449	THANK YOU BLUE (14) (C,D) J Candlish 9 12-0	L Stones(3)	★103
2	111232	GETAWAY WITH YOU (17) (D) (T) D Killahena & G McPherson 8 11-9	N Slatter(3)	99
3	518-067	PECKFORTON HILLS (49) O Greenall & J Guerriero 6 11-3	B Hughes	94
4	36-6F65	RULER LEGEND (13) G Hanmer 7 10-12	J Hogan	101
5	254-964	PORT OR STARBOARD (27) (T) B J Llewellyn 9 10-12	Lee Edwards	102
6	044L7-1	● JUKEBOX JOKER (12) E Williams 6 10-11	Isabel Williams	99
7	L47-L9P	L'AIR DU LARGE (44) O Greenall & J Guerriero 5 10-8	Doubtful	
8	5L73-98	KELLIE'S DREAM (52) D Bourke 9 10-7	C Bewley	100
9	6LPL55-	UNCLE MAC (291) Paul Robson 8 10-4	E Austin(5)	–

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 8, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 3, 5, 7 HOOD: No. 9.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 3, 4, 1.

SP FORECAST: 5-4 Jukebox Joker, 6 Getaway With You, Peckforton Hills, 8 Thank You Blue, 10 Uncle Mac, Ruler Legend, 12 Kellie's Dream, 14 Port Or Starboard.
2025: Rioja Alta 5-11-5, Conor O'Farrell 14-1 (M Hammond), 10 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good to Soft. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Brian Hughes 24% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** D McCain 21% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.32 Swingingonthesteel (hood), 2.42 Mexican Stan (tongue strap), 3.17 Sea Thrift (tongue strap), Boston Boy (cheek pieces), 3.52 King Casey (cheek pieces), 4.28 Peckforton Hills (cheek pieces). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.32 Swingingonthesteel. 2.07 Huit Reflets(hcp ch). 2.42 Prized Jet(hcp ch). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Begin The Luck** (2.07) & **Sea Thrift** (3.17) 314 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 1.32 **Follow Your Luck** from Michael Murphy in Ireland to P Neville.

CARLISLE: Good to soft-good in places on chase course

1.30–IT'S TOP (G Sheehan, 8-13 fav) 1; Double Indemnity (28-1) 2; Lasko Des Obeaux (5-2 2nd fav) 3. 12 ran. 2¼l, 1¼l. (O Signy). Tote: £1.62; pl £1.10, £4.50, £1.10. exacta: £17.00. trifecta: £36.50. CSF: £23.16.

2.00–FIRST CONFESSION (B J Powell, 5-6 fav) 1; Della Casa Lunga (15-8 2nd fav) 2; Thank You Ma'am (13-2) 3. 4 ran. 10l, 13l. (J Tizzard). Tote: £1.84; exacta: £2.80. trifecta: £5.10. CSF: £2.96.

2.35–SEVARANA (H Bannister, 5-4 fav) 1; Oh Clare (13-8 2nd fav) 2; Just An Artist (16-1) 3. 7 ran. 2l, 6½l. (R Bandey). Tote: £2.25; pl £1.10, £1.20. exacta: £3.40. trifecta: £13.10. CSF: £3.84. Non-runner: Rosie Mahler.

3.05–CELESTIAL FASHION (C Bewley, 9-4 fav) 1; Lady In The Park (16-1) 2; Ilovethenightlife (11-4 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 11l, 3¾l. (I Duncan). Tote: £3.25; pl £1.70, £3.70. exacta: £22.60. trifecta: £56.80. CSF: £30.50.

3.35–HAARAR (J England, 9-2) 1; Kientzheim (16-1) 2; Medieval Gold (11-4 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 6l, 2l. (S England; 13-8 fav Smart Decision). Tote: £5.80; pl £2.00, £4.80, £1.30. exacta: £98.10. tricast: £242.36. trifecta: £382.60. CSF: £71.84.

4.04–ORKNEY BLUE (K Brogan, 16-1) 1; Uptown Harry (11-2 jt 2nd fav) 2; Super Citizen (11-1) 3. H'cap 14 ran. 2¾l, 1½l. (N Alexander; 3-1 fav Shadow Chaser). Tote: £21.10; pl £5.70, £2.10, £2.70. exacta: £165.00. tricast: £1055.13. trifecta: £821.70. CSF: £108.01.

4.34–IRISH GOODBYE (T McCain-Mitchell, 4-1) 1; Success Story (15-2) 2; Masked Blagny (7-1) 3. 7 ran. ½l, 1¾l. (N & W Twiston-Davies; 5-2 fav Barracilla). Tote: £5.00; pl £2.00, £4.10. exacta: £34.10. trifecta: £196.70. CSF: £33.11.

Jackpot: £4,084.70
Placepot: £51.50
(Race 1) 4, 3, 7; (2) 1; (3) 7, 3; (4) 4, 2; (5) 6, 2, 4; (6) 1, 7, 3;
Quadpot: £16.10

TAUNTON: Heavy-soft in places

1.40–TALK TO THE MAN (H Cobden, 11-4 2nd fav) 1; Kings Champion (10-11 fav) 2; Marhaba Million (150-1) 3. 8 ran. 5½l, 58l. (P Nicholls). Tote: £3.75; pl £1.10, £1.10, £22.90. exacta: £6.20. trifecta: £254.20. CSF: £6.32. Non-runner: Bye Bye Salam.

2.12–GRAND VENDETTA (H Cobden, 4-5 fav) 1; Wandering Ego (13-8 2nd fav) 2; Joyau Allen (13-2) 3. 7 ran. 1½l, 18l. (P Nicholls). Tote: £1.80; pl £1.10, £1.30. exacta: £2.50. trifecta: £5.30. CSF: £2.59. Non-runners: Crest Of Valour, Dino Moon.

2.45–BEAUTY IN THE PARK (H Cobden, 8-11 fav) 1; Yeld To Call (9-2) 2; Queenie St Clair (85-40 2nd fav) 3. 7 ran. 3½l, 5l. (P Nicholls). Tote: £1.73; pl £1.10, £2.20. exacta: £4.80. trifecta: £7.80. CSF: £4.79.

3.15–PHOENIX RISEN (C Bament, 11-4 fav) 1; Imaginarium (16-5) 2; Premier (3-1 jt 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 2½l, 10l. (J Scott). Tote: £3.75; pl £1.60, £2.50. exacta: £13.60. trifecta: £41.80. CSF: £12.54.

3.45–ROYAL JEWEL (B R Jones, 9-4 jt fav) 1; Brave Kingdom (9-4 jt fav) 2; Captain Boudet (5-2) 3. H'cap 4 ran. 1½l, 33l. (P Hobbs & J White). Tote: £3.25; exacta: £7.60. trifecta: £15.70. CSF: £7.93. Non-runner: Good Friday Fairy.

4.15–PALAWAN DU MAZET (J M Davies, 7-2 jt 2nd fav) 1; Storming Nelson (7-2 jt 2nd fav) 2; Falco Des Pins (15-2) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 3¾l, 3¾l. (A Jones; 11-4 fav Jaitroplaclasse). Tote: £4.50; pl £1.40, £1.60, £2.60. exacta: £11.70. tricast: £85.94. trifecta: £110.40. CSF: £17.05.

4.45–OUR DYLAN (R Corcoran, 7-2) 1; Ourbrowneyedgirl (3-1 2nd fav) 2; Ask Peter (8-1) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 1¾l, 4¾l. (K Woollacott; 5-2 fav Dish Of The Day). Tote: £4.50; pl £1.30, £1.40, £3.00. exacta: £14.60. tricast: £80.12. trifecta: £83.70. CSF: £14.77.

Placepot: £18.10
(Race 1) 9, 2, 8; (2) 6, 1; (3) 2, 7; (4) 5, 1; (5) 2; (6) 7, 3, 2;
Quadpot: £16.30

WOLVERHAMPTON: Standard

5.30–HARBOUR VISION (K O'Neill, 6-1) 1; Bomb Squad (9-2 2nd fav) 2; How's The Guvnor (4-5 fav) 3. H'cap 9 ran. shd, 5l. (S Dixon). Tote: £7.70; pl £1.90, £1.40, £1.10. exacta: £38.70. tricast: £45.05. trifecta: £108.40. CSF: £32.37.

6.00–MANY A STAR (S Osborne, 8-1) 1; Dyrholaey (4-1 2nd fav) 2; Cajetan (11-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. ½l, nk. (J Osborne; 2-1 fav Betsen). Tote: £9.30; pl £3.00, £2.30. exacta: £31.60. trifecta: £325.60. CSF: £40.17.

6.30–SPARKSMITH (J Peate, 4-7 fav) 1; Lovethiswayagain (7-2 2nd fav) 2; Harlequin Bay (4-1) 3. 7 ran. 5l, 3¾l. (J Ferguson). Tote: £1.58; pl £1.10, £1.80. exacta: £2.60. trifecta: £5.40. CSF: £2.87.

7.00–WORD OF MOUTH (D Muscutt, 10-1) 1; One Cool Dreamer (4-1 2nd fav) 2; Skycutter (5-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. nk, 1l. (J Ferguson; 9-4 fav Captain Robert). Tote: £14.00; pl £3.70, £1.80, £1.80. exacta: £63.50. tricast: £230.08. trifecta: £304.90. CSF: £51.38. Non-runner: Further Measure.

7.30–TOWERLANDS (Jack Doughty, 5-1) 1; Commander Of Life (9-1) 2; Eupator (evens fav) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 1¾l, 1¼l. (A Carroll). Tote: £5.25; pl £2.20, £3.20. exacta: £24.30. trifecta: £53.30. CSF: £31.60. Non-runner: Shihoku.Shihoku| Rule 4 applies to All Bets, deduct 15p in the pound.

8.00–LOVE ALIVE (A Rawlinson, 22-1) 1; Flash Rascal (9-4 2nd fav) 2; Grey Horizon (6-5 fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. nk, shd. (Martin Dunne). Tote: £29.20; pl £9.20, £1.90. exacta: £106.30. tricast: £108.49. trifecta: £274.60. CSF: £71.77. Non-runners: Far Too Fizzy, Wisetanck.

8.30–SILVER STATE (Rose Dawes, 11-1) 1; Thanh Nam (4-1 2nd fav) 2; Lexington Express (15-8 fav) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 2¼l, ¼l. (J Channon). Tote: £12.00; pl £3.50, £1.90, £1.40. exacta: £69.20. tricast: £123.15. trifecta: £344.70. CSF: £57.08. Non-runners: Exhibition Match, Montu.

Placepot: £154.40
Quadpot: £33.80

LUDLOW RACINGTV

THE SCOUT

1.13 WOLF RAYET (nb) · 3.33 SALLYVILLE LADY (nap)
1.48 Diamond Du Berlais · 4.07 Unleash The Beast
2.23 Final Escape · 4.42 Bardenstown Lad
2.58 CHARLES RITZ

1.13 RACING TO SCHOOL JUVENILE HURDLE 4YO
£5,446 (Class 4) 1m 7f 169yds (8 declared)

1 34 **DOWN TO BUSINESS (18)** D Skelton 11-0 — H Skelton 124
2 **GALLIVANTED (F265)** Harry Derham 11-0 — Paul O'Brien –
3 52 **KING AL (25)** A King 11-0 — T Bellamy ★128
4 **LASSWADE (F28)** E De Giles 11-0 — B Poste –
5 5-7F193 **MADAME DE LABRUNIE (36)** F O'Brien 11-0 — J J Burke 108
6 3 **TALAKAN (18)** T Lawes 11-0 — K Brogan 127
7 24 ● **WOLF RAYET (53)** S Drinkwater 11-0 — R T Dunne 126
8 **47 SILVEREEN (46)** H Daly 10-7 — S Twiston-Davies –

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 HOOD: No. 4. SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 5.
SP FORECAST: 9-4 King Al, 4 Wolf Rayet, 9-2 Gallivanted, 5 Down To Business, 11-2 Talakan, 10 Madame De Labrunie, 16 Silvereen, 100 Lasswade.
2025: Viyanni 11-7, Paul O'Brien 2-7 Fav (Harry Derham), 10 ran.

1.48 C M BESPOKE CARE MARES' MAIDEN HURDLE
£5,446 (4) 2m 5f 55yds (12)

1 1-34 **AFANCY GETAWAY (47)** B Pauling 6 11-5 — B R Jones 99
2 **UP1/62-3 BORNA GEM (38)** N & W Twiston-Davies 7 11-5 — J Turner(5) 94
3 **4321-2 CATWALK GIRL (254)** M Comley 6 11-5 — D Bass –
4 55L-P38 ● **DIAMOND DU BERLAIS (249)** W P Mullins (IRE) 5 11-5 — Mr P W Mullins ★136
5 **L6**-863L **FEELING FRISKY (114)** Mrs S Leech 6 11-5 — Miss Roisin Leech(7) 81
6 **L3 JAX BELLE (150)** L Wadham 6 11-5 — B J Powell –
7 **62-1 JURASSIC PET (283)** S Bradstock 6 11-5 — Miss L Bradstock(7) –
8 **30**/5 **KHUTULUN KHAN (24)** L Wadham 7 11-5 — T Cannon 100
9 **1-63**F **NO FLIES ON HER (49)** F O'Brien 6 11-5 — J J Burke –
10 P3LL-PP **PORRIDGE (89)** Tracey Leeson 6 11-5 — Mr J Stevenson(7) –
11 **2**-P **WARRIORESS (97)** A Hales 6 11-5 — K Woods –
12 **52**P0 **WISHFUL WINGS (12)** Sheila Lewis 5 11-5 — Sean Houlihan 72

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 4, 7 CHEEK PIECES: No. 6. SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2.
SP FORECAST: 8-13 Diamond Du Berlais, 6 Afancy Getaway, 8 No Flies On Her, 10 Jurassic Pet, 16 Catwalk Girl, Jax Belle, Borna Gem, Khutulun Khan, 50 Others.
2025: Jasmine Bliss 6-11-5, Paul O'Brien 11-10 Fav (Harry Derham), 11 ran.

2.23 LUDLOW MEMBERS NOVICES' HURDLE
£5,446 (4) 1m 7f 169yds (12)

1 **S4**-L09L **CAN U FEEL IT (25)** Christian Williams 5 11-0 — J Tudor 105
2 **4-2 EMERALD TIME (270)** Dominic Elsworth 5 11-0 — T Bellamy –
3 **9-7**L7 **FANNY MOON (20)** Mrs M Rowley 6 11-0 — C Deutsch 93
4 **3**-L4 **JOEYBOTTLES (2)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 5 11-0 — Doubtful 107
5 **U1**-466 **KADO SACREE (13)** O Murphy 6 11-0 — K Brogan 118
6 **2/612**-45 **KIWI RUSH (34) (F)** Harry Derham 6 11-0 — Paul O'Brien 122
7 29 **LEJO DU SEUIL (21)** I Williams 5 11-0 — R T Dunne 83
8 **42**11-F **SHERMINATOR (54) (D)** H Fry 5 11-0 — B Carver 121
9 **23 DRAKARIS (40)** D Skelton 5 10-7 — T Durrell –
10 **2**/P7- ● **FINAL ESCAPE (532)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 7 10-7 — T Wynne –
11 **F1**-F5 **FIRST CANDIDATE (44)** D Skelton 6 10-7 — H Skelton ★124
12 **67 JESSIE'S GIANT (35)** T Ellis 5 10-7 — J Andrews –

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 6, 8, 11 HOOD: No. 1. SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 11, 6, 8.
SP FORECAST: 9-4 Sherminator, 5-2 Kiwi Rush, 4 First Candidate, 8 Kado Sacree, 10 Drakaris, Emerald Time, 20 Lejo Du Seuil, Final Escape, 33 Others.
2025: Vanderpoel 6-11-7, Ben Jones 1-8 Fav (B Pauling), 7 ran.

2.58 ATTWOOD MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE
£8,450 (3) 2m 4f 11yds (8)

1 11-F511 **RODNEY (23) (S)** Kerry Lee 7 12-0 — C Deutsch 127
2 L1F-P64 **JOKER DE MAI (37)** C Boultbee-Brooks 7 11-13 — R Patrick 121
3 6LL/P2-1 ● **CHARLES RITZ (52) (D)** T R George 10 11-12 — J J Burke 127
4 20-2F6L **PALAMON (18)** D Skelton 6 11-12 — T Durrell 127
5 6/03385 **TAX FOR MAX (34)** N & W Twiston-Davies 9 11-11 — J J Slevin 118
6 222/1-51 **TOOTHLESS (34) (D)** P Nicholls 8 11-10 — J Tidball(5) 126
7 LL-F423 **PEPE LE MOKO (23) (D)** Mrs J Williams 8 11-2 — C Gethings 128
8 622-2LF **REGAL RENAISSANCE (49) (D)** H Daly 8 11-0 — S Twiston-Davies ★129

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 6, 7. SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 3, 2, 7, 8, 1.
SP FORECAST: 9-4 Rodney, 3 Toothless, 7-2 Charles Ritz, 13-2 Regal Renaissance, 12 Pepe Le Moko, 14 Palamon, 16 Joker De Mai, 20 Tax For Max.
2025: Post Chaise 8-10-13, Toby Wynne(3) 10-1 (O Greenall & J Guerriero), 7 ran.

3.33 LATE ROY KNELLER MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE
£4,753 (4) 2m 5f 55yds (11)

1 11-5206 **GREYVAL (39)** F O'Brien 7 12-0 — J J Burke ★123
2 0P-2251 **MASKED DANCE (49) (C&D)** Mrs M Rowley 8 11-12 — C Deutsch 120
3 **44**12-3L **DRAMATIC ENCORE (60) (D)** Harry Derham 6 11-8 — Paul O'Brien 120
4 43-1543 **PISMO BEACH (35)** S Edmunds 6 11-7 — C Hammond 119
5 14/22-09 **NOTNOWLINDA (74)** D Skelton 9 11-7 — T Durrell 92
6 35/563-4 **MAGICAL MAGGIE (63) (C)** A Ralph 9 11-7 — C Gethings 109
7 3312I-L **OUR BILL'S AUNT (62) (D)** A Hales 10 11-6 — T McCain-Mitchell(5) 121
8 **1**-32 ● **SALLYVILLE LADY (47)** D Skelton 6 11-5 — H Skelton 115
9 42-1622 **HARD DEALT (40)** H Daly 6 11-2 — D Bass 119
10 61/24-L1 **HELLFIRE PRINCESS (77)** Kerry Lee 9 10-11 — C O'Farrell 118
11 62L43-F **VICTORIA MILANO (18) (C&D)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 8 10-11 — Craig Nichol 122

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 7, 11 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 10.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 1, 10, 6, 5, 7, 11.
SP FORECAST: 7-2 Masked Dance, 4 Hellfire Princess, 5 Sallyville Lady, Hard Dealt, 10 Pismo Beach, Dramatic Encore, Magical Maggie, 12 Victoria Milano, 20 Others.
2025: Looking As You Are 6-11-13, Kielan Woods 4-1 (A Hales), 8 ran.

4.07 WATCH RACINGTV HANDICAP HURDLE
£3,697 (5) 2m 5f 55yds (13)

1 **5**6527-7 ● **UNLEASH THE BEAST (75)** F O'Brien 7 12-0 — J J Burke 100
2 954-41 **FOLLOWING CHAPTER (35)** A Ralph 6 12-0 — G Sheehan 99
3 **3-4**6354 **WINDSOR BLUE (49)** H Daly 5 12-0 — S Twiston-Davies 91
4 41-7473 **MOORLAND RAMBLER (26)** Mrs J Williams 8 11-13 — C Gethings ★101
5 9573L9 **LION OF THE DESERT (18)** G Harris 6 11-13 — J A Anderson(3) 95
6 **4**557L5 **TIMES A WASTIN (46)** A Carroll 7 11-12 — R T Dunne 95
7 **2**467 **MOONLIGHTINTHEPARK (36)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 5 11-12 — Craig Nichol 92
8 125-032 **SHUIL CEOIL (26)** N Mulholland 8 11-12 — B Harris(3) 98
9 **22/2**L0-6 **OCEAN WALZ (231)** Mrs R Gasson 6 11-6 — B Poste 80
10 **L**-65F4 **MY FORTUNE (25)** B Pauling 6 11-4 — B R Jones 92
11 **5**-ULP8P **GETAWAY SAM (23)** M Sheppard 6 10-6 — N Fox(5) 86
12 LF87U0 **CATBOY (35)** Christian Williams 6 10-4 — J Tudor 78
13 05L4LP **OUTBACK FRONTIERS (73)** J G O'Shea 10 10-2 — Fern O'Brien(5) 92

VISOR: No. 8 TONGUE STRAP: No. 7 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 13 HOOD: No. 5.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 4, 8.
SP FORECAST: 7-4 Following Chapter, 4 Shuil Ceoil, 8 Moorland Rambler, 10 Unleash The Beast, 12 Catboy, Moonlightinthepark, Times A Wastin, 14 My Fortune, 16 Others.
2025: No corresponding race.

4.42 PLYVINE CATERING OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE
£3,388 (4) 2m 7f 171yds (6)

1 **11**OUF-P ● **BARDENSTOWN LAD (266) (D)** W Ryan-Beswick 11 12-6 — Mr D Andrews(3) 83
2 **121**1-11 **BARTON SNOW (250)** J J O'Shea 9 12-6 — Mr H Crow(5) 119
3 **1122**0-**5 WHAT A GLANCE (52)** T Britten 11 12-6 — Mr F Philipson-Stow(7) 82
4 1-233L2 **JEFFERY'S CROSS (63) (C&D)** D Skelton 10 12-2 — Mr Sean O'Connor(5) ★124
5 **24/1P3P**- **PROHUS YANK (347)** Miss H Brookshaw 11 11-12 — Miss A Jackson-Fennell(7) –
6 **112**F-**4P REWRITETHERULES (38)** Fred Timmis 12 11-12 — Mr H Edwards(3) –

TONGUE STRAP: No. 3. SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 1, 6, 3.
SP FORECAST: 8-11 Barton Snow, 4 Jeffery's Cross, 9-2 What A Glance, 13-2 Bardenstown Lad, 66 Rewritetherules, Prohus Yank.
2025: Frere d'Armes 8-12-6, Miss Heidi Palin(5) 11-4 (D Skelton), 5 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Soft. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Sam Twiston-Davies 18% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** F O'Brien 21% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.13 Lasswade (hood, tongue strap), Gallivanted (tongue strap, wind surgery), 1.48 Afancy Getaway (tongue strap), Jurassic Pet (tongue strap, wind surgery), Diamond Du Berlais (tongue strap), 3.33 Pismo Beach (tongue strap), Dramatic Encore (cheek pieces), 4.07 Moonlightinthepark (tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 4.42 Bardenstown Lad. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Diamond Du Berlais** (1.48) Ireland; **Talakan** (1.13) 173 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 1.13 **Gallivanted** from Tom Clover to Harry Derham. 1.48 **Diamond Du Berlais** from Rob Collet in France to W P Mullins, **Jurassic Pet** from A Murray in Ireland to S Bradstock. 4.42 **Bardenstown Lad** from D Loughnane to W Ryan-Beswick.

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) C Boultbee-Brooks 67% (1 wins and 3 places from 6 runners), P Nicholls 65% (7/4/17), M Herrington 62% (2/3/8), K Ryan 60% (2/1/5), M Loughnane 56% (2/3/9), D Whillans 50% (1/1/4).

IN-FORM JOCKEYS Ethan Tindall 80% (1 wins and 3 places from 5 runners), Callum Rodriguez 71% (1/4/7), Oliver Stammers 67% (1/3/6), Tom Cannon 67% (4/2/9), Kevin Brogan 60% (4/2/10), Joshua Thompson 58% (5/2/12).

12.50 APPRENTICE HANDICAP
£3,140 (Class 6) 1m (10 declared)

1 (6) 3378-31 **MBAPPE (7) (C&D)** M Loughnane 5 9-12(5ex) — E Tindall(3) 66
2 (5) 343558- **MASQOOL (39) (C&D)** A Carroll 8 9-9 — Zoe Lewis(5) 65
3 (9) 0/1160L- **OUR DAGGER (100) (C,D)** A Wintle 5 9-9 — Mason Paetel 69
4 (3) 6134-73 **BERNING HOT (7)** M Attwater 4 9-8 — J Glennon(7) 67
5 (4) 60031-4 ● **GALAXY WONDER (24)** A Carroll 4 9-8 — M Slater(5) 66
6 (8) 2178-84 **AGE OF TIME (24)** I Williams 5 9-8 — R Kavanagh 66
7 (10) 15366-8 **JOHNJAY (25) (D)** Kieran Burke 6 9-6 — Ashley Lewis ★70
8 (1) 615L-32 **BRINTON (24) (D,F)** J Portman 5 9-5 — O Tubb(3) 67
9 (7) 00978-7 **PORT NOIR (5)** R Stephens 9 8-9 — Rose Dawes 63
10 (2) 837L-47 **MARCHETTI (7) (C)** J Fox 9 8-9 — T Cameron(3) 67

TONGUE STRAP: No. 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 6, 8, 10 HOOD: No. 7.
SP FORECAST: 2 Mbappe, 9-2 Brinton, 5 Galaxy Wonder, 8 Berning Hot, Age Of Time, 12 Masqool, 14 Our Dagger, Johnjay, 20 Others.
2025: Angelica K 5-9-5, Jack Dace(5) 14-1 (S Hodgson), drawn (5), 9 ran.

1.25 UNIBET FILLIES' NOVICE STAKES
£5,400 (4) 1m (12)

1 (7) 4- **BRONTE BEACH (174)** A Watson 4 10-2 — L Morris 64
2 (9) 322/L57- **GLISTENING (152)** Ollie Sangster 4 10-2 — O Murphy 60
3 (3) 5L655-2 **NUPTOWN GIRL (12)** I Williams 4 10-2 — R Kavanagh(5) 60
4 (10) L **WHISPER OF MIST (21)** A Newcombe 4 10-2 — A Rawlinson 34
5 (5) **ALICE DE CLARE (F)** J Fanshawe 3 8-11 — Jack Doughty –
6 (1) **BILLINGSGATE GOLD** S C Williams 3 8-11 — Grace McEntee –
7 (2) 7-4 **DARN HOT DAME (12)** T Ward 3 8-11 — A Voikhansky 53
8 (8) 8- **NAANA'S CRYSTAL (135)** M Botti 3 8-11 — M Ghiani 52
9 (4) 0L- **QUATRO NETAS (114)** J Portman 3 8-11 — R Hornby 4
10 (12) 50 **SONG OF THE STARS (21)** J Ferguson 3 8-11 — J Peate 56
11 (11) 5 ● **STAR OBSESSION (33)** W Haggas 3 8-11 — T Marquand 48
12 (6) 4732- **TOO HOT TO TANGO (68) (F)** H Morrison 3 8-11 — H Davies ★69

HOOD: No. 11.
SP FORECAST: 9-4 Too Hot To Tango, 9-2 Star Obsession, 5 Nuptown Girl, Glistening, 7 Bronte Beach, 12 Alice De Clare, 14 Others.
2025: Selenic 3-8-11, Luke Morris 7-2 (Sir M Prescott), drawn (6), 7 ran.

2.00 BET 20 GET 20 WITH UNIBET HANDICAP
£8,246 (3) 1m (10)

1 (9) 22L624- **SOVEREIGN SEA (120) (D)** R Varian 5 9-9 — J Mitchell 103
2 (4) 5404-32 **POPMASTER (28) (C)** E Walker 8 9-8 — T Marquand 103
3 (7) 2242/0-L **JAMES MCHENRY (19) (D) (T)** E Bethell 6 9-6 — C Rodriguez 92
4 (10) 581710- **ANGEL HUNTER (49) (D)** R Hannon 4 9-5 — S M Levey 102
5 (5) 02887-2 **NIKOVO (13) (D)** M Herrington 7 9-5 — L Edmunds 101
6 (6) 916/30-1 ● **THE LOST KING (28) (C,F)** A Balding 4 9-5 — O Murphy 103
7 (3) 12253-4 **UNASSUMING (18) (D)** G Boughey 6 9-4 — P Cosgrave ★105
8 (2) 213L/26- **HARVEY (128) (D)** I Williams 4 9-2 — E Greatrex –
9 (8) 326220- **I STILL HAVE FAITH (116) (D)** S C Williams 6 8-12 — M Ghiani 104
10 (1) 1533-11 **HIGH ON HOPE (14) (C&D)** M Appleby 4 8-10 — H Davies 103

TONGUE STRAP: No. 7 CHEEK PIECES: No. 7 HOOD: No. 8.
SP FORECAST: 3 Popmaster, 7-2 The Lost King, 6 High On Hope, 7 Nikovo, 8 Sovereign Sea, 10 Unassuming, 12 Harvey, 14 Angel Hunter, 16 Others.
2025: No corresponding race.

KEMPTON RACINGTV

THE SCOUT

12.50 Galaxy Wonder · 3.10 I'm Workin On It
1.25 Star Obsession · 3.45 Imperial Trooper
2.00 The Lost King · 4.15 Magna
2.35 Portoro

JACKPOT: www.totepoolliveinfo.com

2.35 UNIBET EXTRA PLACE RACES HANDICAP
£3,140 (6) 7f (11)

1 (1) 47347-L **REDDEEF (25)** Michael Keady 4 9-9 — D Keenan 70
2 (9) 2342-42 ● **PORTORO (7) (C&D)** Martin Dunne 6 9-8 — Rossa Ryan 69
3 (5) 626337- **PREFER THE SISTER (70) (C&D)** M Crawley 6 9-8 — L Morris 68
4 (11) 70768-0 **ZU RUN (15) (D)** M Loughnane 6 9-7 — P Bradley ★73
5 (8) 84-2541 **COURT OF SESSION (8) (D,S)** P McEntee 7 9-7(4ex) — C Planas(3) 69
6 (4) 41269-9 **PURE ARTISTRY (13)** Charlie Clover 4 9-6 — T Marquand 71
7 (10) 5L736-6 **ROMANOVICH (19) (D)** J G O'Shea 7 9-6 — R Kavanagh(5) 67
8 (6) 32L28-3 **BULLINGTON BRY (6)** J Chapple-Hyam 4 9-6 — Sorin Moldoveanu(7) 72
9 (7) U93-328 **SANDITON (13) (T)** C Johnston 4 9-6 — J Mitchell 70
10 (3) 058070- **U S S CONSTITUTION (218) (D)** E Walker 6 9-4 — H Crouch 43
11 (2) 461-L96 **ADACE (7) (C&D)** D Ivory 8 9-3 — J F Egan 69

BLINKERS: No. 7 VISOR: Nos. 5, 6 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 8, 9, 11 HOOD: No. 2.
SP FORECAST: 13-8 Court Of Session, 7-2 Portoro, 4 Bullington Bry, 10 Prefer The Sister, 12 Sanditon, 14 Reddeef, 20 U S S Constitution, 25 Others.
2025: No corresponding race.

3.10 UNIBET SAFER GAMBLING HANDICAP
£6,281 (4) 7f (10)

1 (8) 15162L- **VALLEY OFTHE KINGS (36)** D Cunha 4 9-9 — S M Levey 91
2 (7) 374-323 **DIAMONDONTHEHILL (14) (D)** Dr R Newland & J Insole 8 9-8 — H Crouch 94
3 (3) 06071-4 **FOLLOW YOUR HEART (29) (C&D)** M Loughnane 8 9-6 — L Morris 90
4 (6) 324441- **MYTHICAL COMPOSER (65) (C&D)** C Cox 4 9-6 — Rossa Ryan 91
5 (4) 3/0540-1 **ECHALAR (29) (D,F)** J Chapple-Hyam 4 9-5 — H Davies 91
6 (2) 05L133- **GOOD BANTER (70)** J Candlish 4 9-3 — D Keenan 89
7 (5) 5L1760- **ROBBO (J107) (D)** T Faulkner 5 9-2 — R Havlin 93
8 (1) 0/1422-1 ● **I'M WORKIN ON IT (16) (C&D)** B Millman 4 8-12 — L Edmunds 91
9 (10) 41356-8 **CHERRY COBBLER (24)** S C Williams 4 8-11 — M Ghiani ★95
10 (9) 3163-35 **MUMAYAZ (12) (D)** James Owen 7 8-10 — Mason Paetel(5) 90

BLINKERS: No. 1 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 9, 10 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 8 HOOD: No. 5.
SP FORECAST: 3 I'm Workin On It, 4 Diamondonthehill, 5 Mythical Composer, 11-2 Echalar, 8 Follow Your Heart, 10 Cherry Cobbler, 14 Others.
2025: No corresponding race.

3.45 TRY UNIBET'S NEW RACECARDS HANDICAP
£4,187 (5) 1m 2f 219yds (13)

1 (3) 310373- **GOLDEN CIRCET (J86)** J & S Best 6 9-12 — F Marsh 79
2 (2) 10400-5 **SOMETHING (34)** S C Williams 5 9-11 — Harry Vigors(7) ★84
3 (12) 71412-4 **MUST BELIEVE (20) (C&D)** I Mohammed 4 9-9 — Mason Paetel(5) 79
4 (10) 8L33L-2 ● **IMPERIAL TROOPER (15)** J Candlish 4 9-8 — L Morris 82
5 (8) 3L67-L4 **ALPINE OASIS (29)** Darryll Holland 5 9-8 — D Keenan 81
6 (5) 7465L/1- **JOHNNY BOOM (J71)** S Lycett 8 9-6 — Rossa Ryan 79
7 (9) 6LL88-6 **ATLANTIC SUNSET (20) (T)** C Johnston 4 9-6 — N Callan 74
8 (11) 580228- **PARTY ISLAND (44) (C&D)** D Coakley 9 9-5 — G Bass 82
9 (13) 00012-1 **DUST COVER (15) (D,F)** R Burdon 4 9-5 — P Bradley 78
10 (4) 00722-9 **JACK SPAROWE (15) (C&D)** J Butler 7 9-3 — L Edmunds 83
11 (7) 048L18- **UPEPO (46)** A Carroll 6 9-2 — Jack Doughty 77
12 (6) 21532-2 **FIDDLERS GREEN (28) (C&D)** J G O'Shea 7 8-13 — R Kavanagh(5) 81
13 (1) 6614U- **SCEPTIC (71)** I Williams 6 8-11 — E Greatrex 80

BLINKERS: No. 13 VISOR: Nos. 3, 7 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 6, 12.
SP FORECAST: 4 Dust Cover, 6 Imperial Trooper, 7 Johnny Boom, 8 Fiddlers Green, 10 Must Believe, Golden Circet, 12 Others.
2025: No corresponding race.

4.15 TRY UNIBET'S NEW ACCA BOOSTS H'CAP
£3,140 (6) 6f (11)

1 (11) 5251-12 ● **MAGNA (16) (C&D)** A Carroll 4 9-9 — Jack Doughty 66
2 (9) 53L9-L6 **MAN ON A MISSION (7) (C&D)** P Charalambous & J Clutterbuck 7 9-9 — P Cosgrave 54
3 (3) 444L-35 **INITIAL BLUE (13) (D)** Dr R Newland & J Insole 4 9-9 — Rossa Ryan 65
4 (2) L/6205-3 **RESPECTABLE JACK (16)** M Crawley 5 9-9 — L Morris ★67
5 (4) 38554-5 **ALASHOS (18) (D)** C Gordon 4 9-9 — R Havlin 64
6 (5) 9-5312-3 **PORFIN (6) (D)** P McEntee 8 9-6 — C Planas(3) 63
7 (8) 0266-02 **CUBAN FIESTA (11)** D P Quinn 5 9-5 — Harry Vigors(7) 64
8 (6) 2/4788-8 **FRIDAY AGAIN (32)** S Dow 4 9-3 — Mason Paetel(5) 62
9 (7) L287-41 **DR ALI (16) (C&D)** J R Jenkins 4 9-3 — J Peate 65
10 (1) L16/880- **LIRICIST (44)** A Newcombe 4 9-0 — A Rawlinson 50
11 (10) 6LL78-8 **PURPENDICULAR (22)** M Murphy 4 9-0 — R Hornby 55

BLINKERS: Nos. 3, 4, 5 TONGUE STRAP: 2, 4, 7, 11 CHEEK PIECES: 6, 8, 9.
SP FORECAST: 3 Magna, 4 Respectable Jack, 11-2 Porfin, 6 Dr Ali, Cuban Fiesta, 8 Initial Blue, 12 Alashos, 16 Man On A Mission, 25 Others.
2025: No corresponding race.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Oisin Murphy 23% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** A Balding 16% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.25 Star Obsession (hood), 2.00 Harvey (hood), 2.35 Bullington Bry (cheek pieces), 3.10 I'm Workin On It (cheek pieces), Cherry Cobbler (tongue strap), 3.45 Alpine Oasis (cheek pieces), 4.15 Initial Blue (blinkers), 12.50 Mbappe (cheek pieces), Johnjay (hood). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 12.50 Galaxy Wonder(hcp). 2.00 Harvey, Popmaster(hcp). 2.35 Bullington Bry(hcp). 3.10 Follow Your Heart(hcp). 3.45 Upepo(hcp). 4.15 Magna(hcp). **DRAW:** No advantage. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: James McHenry** (2.00), **Sanditon** (2.35), **Atlantic Sunset** (3.45) 245 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 12.50 **Masqool** from H Evans to A Carroll, **Our Dagger** from Gerard Kyne in Ireland to A Wintle. 1.25 **Bronte Beach** from J & T Gosden to A Watson, **Glistening** from J & T Gosden to Ollie Sangster, **Naana's Crystal** from Alice Haynes to M Botti. 2.00 **Harvey** from C Ferland in France to I Williams, **I Still Have Faith** from B Brookhouse to S C Williams. 2.35 **U S S Constitution** from J Size in Hong Kong to E Walker. 3.10 **Robbo** from G & J Moore to T Faulkner.

NEWCASTLE SKYSPORTSRACING

4.23 BETMGM.CO.UK HANDICAP 3YO
£3,140 (Class 6) 1m 2f 42yds (10 declared)

1 (1) 093-3 **LORD MAYOR (18) (T)** A Balding 9-9 — Doubtful 68
2 (10) 067L38- **FARABOVE THE LIMIT (47)** Phillip Makin 9-8 — S James 66
3 (3) 613-222 **ONYEISI (14) (D,F)** C Johnston 9-7 — J Hart ★70
4 (2) 880- ● **SAXOPHONIC (39)** K R Burke 9-5 — R Scott 61
5 (9) 65-6 **VERY DEMURE (20) (T)** A Watson 9-0 — H Doyle 69
6 (8) L385-13 **TRUST NO ONE (14) (C&D) (T)** Lemos Souza 8-13 — Taryn Langley(5) 68
7 (6) 485624- **MR NIPPY (72)** C Johnston 8-12 — Joanna Mason 68
8 (4) LL8- **WICKSEY (70)** B Haslam 8-11 — A Mullen 64
9 (7) 774241- **LOPE HARSWELL (46) (C)** Roger Fell 8-6 — W Fentiman(5) 67
10 (5) L00L-3 **SUNDAY SINATRA (26) (T)** Ollie Sangster 8-5 — S D Bowen 67

BLINKERS: No. 6 VISOR: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: No. 6 CHEEK PIECES: No. 10.
SP FORECAST: 2 Onyeisi, 5 Lope Harswell, 11-2 Saxophonic, 8 Very Demure, Sunday Sinatra, Trust No One, 10 Mr Nippy, 16 Farabove The Limit, 20 Others.
2025: No corresponding race.

5.00 MIDNITE BETTING APP HANDICAP (DIV 1)
£4,711 (6) 6f (8)

1 (4) 22399-4 **CAPTAIN VALLO (19) (C&D)** Phillip Makin 8 9-9 — J Nicholls(5) ★72
2 (7) 3115-12 **TEARDROPS (15) (C&D) (T)** R Spencer 4 9-9 — G Wood 68
3 (2) 0786-5L **MERSEA (15) (C&D)** G Tuer 6 9-8 — O Stammers 63
4 (8) 1L/L87L- **HOWZAK (37) (C&D)** L Bailey 8 9-6 — B Garritty 61
5 (3) 704-136 **PENNY MOUNTAIN (22) (C&D)** Gary Rutherford 5 9-3 — Kaiya Fraser 69
6 (5) 2348-43 **ASADJUMEIRAH (15) (C&D)** A Brittain 8 9-2 — C Hardie 65
7 (1) 469-133 **EAST TYRONE (9) (D)** P Kirby 4 9-0 — J Hart 69
8 (6) 66-6222 ● **LAURENS DREAM (13) (C&D,F)** M & D Easterby 4 8-13 — Joanna Mason 70

BLINKERS: Nos. 2, 7, 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 4, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 6.
SP FORECAST: 7-4 Teardrops, 9-2 Laurens Dream, 5 Asadjumeirah, 6 East Tyrone, 7 Penny Mountain, 10 Captain Vallo, 16 Mersea, 25 Howzak.
2025: Asadjumeirah 7-9-4, Alex Jary(5) 5-1 (A Brittain), drawn (11), 9 ran.

5.30 MIDNITE BETTING APP HANDICAP (DIV 2)
£4,711 (6) 6f (8)

1 (2) 4/887L- **BEARWITHUS (184)** Mr W G Harrison 4 9-9 — J Gormley 60
2 (1) 232-111 **SPARTAN FIGHTER (15) (C&D,S)** A Brittain 9 9-8 — C Hardie 67
3 (3) 50/5L8-7 ● **SPIRITED DANCER (33) (D,F) (T)** D & C Kubler 4 9-7 — H Doyle 65
4 (6) 2694-70 **ATOMIC MASS (5) (D)** M & D Easterby 4 9-5 — Joanna Mason 65
5 (8) 727-742 **PIT BOSS (4)** L Bailey 4 9-3 — B Garritty 70
6 (4) 2113-41 **YORKSHIRE GLORY (15) (C&D)** B Haslam 5 9-2 — A Mullen ★71
7 (7) 1646-5L **FLASH THE DASH (13) (C&D)** J Camacho 7 9-1 — R Scott 68
8 (5) 842-523 **FIRCOMBE HALL (15) (C&D)** P Kirby 8 8-9 — Rhys Elliott(5) 69

BLINKERS: No. 5 VISOR: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 5 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 6, 7, 8.
SP FORECAST: 5-4 Spartan Fighter, 7-2 Yorkshire Glory, 7 Pit Boss, 8 Fircombe Hall, 10 Atomic Mass, 14 Spirited Dancer, Flash The Dash, 25 Bearwithus.
2025: Asadjumeirah 7-9-4, Alex Jary(5) 5-1 (A Brittain), drawn (11), 9 ran.

THE SCOUT

4.23 Saxophonic · 7.00 Brave Empire
5.00 Laurens Dream · 7.30 Sintra
5.30 Spirited Dancer · 8.00 I Can Boogy
6.00 Bibendum · 8.30 Sea Legend
6.30 Hayynah

6.00 MIDNITE BETTING APP HANDICAP (DIV 3)
£4,711 (6) 6f (8)

1 (6) 2713-04 ● **BIBENDUM (15) (C,D,F)** J Camacho 5 9-9 — R Scott ★70
2 (8) 33698-5 **JKR COBBLER (19) (C&D)** I Jardine 7 9-8 — Doubtful 65
3 (4) 11696-L **SPUN TO GOLD (22) (C&D)** J Goldie 5 9-6 — P Mulrennan 59
4 (5) 6/5-L **RAJSTAR (25)** B Haslam 4 9-4 — J Hart 57
5 (7) 98/9708- **MIGHTY POWER (183) (C&D)** L Williamson 8 9-3 — S B Kirrane 59
6 (2) L4765-9 **PEBBLE DASH (15)** Mr W G Harrison 4 9-2 — J Gormley 69
7 (3) 08-4 **WINGSTAR (29)** S England 4 9-0 — G Wood 61
8 (1) L594-27 **YAAHOBBY (15) (C,D)** A Brittain 7 8-9 — C Hardie 65

VISOR: No. 1 TONGUE STRAP: No. 8 CHEEK PIECES: No. 6.
SP FORECAST: 7-4 Bibendum, 7-2 Spun To Gold, 4 Rajstar, 7 Wingstar, 8 Yaahobby, 12 Pebble Dash, 20 Mighty Power.
2025: Asadjumeirah 7-9-4, Alex Jary(5) 5-1 (A Brittain), drawn (11), 9 ran.

6.30 MIDNITE MAIDEN STAKES
£5,400 (4) 6f (10)

1 (7) **TEDDY SHAW** R Carr 5 10-2 — Joanna Mason –
2 (3) L **BENNYWORTH (18) (T)** James Owen 3 9-1 — S D Bowen 58
3 (5) **NOBLE GENTLEMAN** R Fahey 3 9-1 — C Hardie –
4 (4) 56 **STROMNESS (13)** N Tinkler 3 9-1 — F McManoman 59
5 (10) **CELTIC ARROW** J Camacho 3 8-10 — R Scott –
6 (6) **CHAMPONIE (T)** G Boughey 3 8-10 — P J McDonald –
7 (8) 85 **EVELYN'S GARDEN (11)** K Scott 3 8-10 — G Fairley 35
8 (2) 2262- ● **HAYYNAH (169) (T)** Ollie Sangster 3 8-10.. Jason Watson ★82
9 (1) 0-5 **LOCK'D UP LANE (22)** Roger Fell 3 8-10 — G Wood 56
10 (9) 4 **MAYBE SOON (22)** T Tate 3 8-10 — A Elliott 59

CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 8.
SP FORECAST: Evens Hayynah, 4 Champonie, 13-2 Maybe Soon, 8 Noble Gentleman, 14 Celtic Arrow, 16 Lock'd Up Lane, Stromness, 25 Others.
2025: No corresponding race.

7.00 MIDNITE: BUILT FOR 2026 HANDICAP
£4,972 (4) 5f (7)

1 (5) L5377-2 **ARNHEM (13) (D)** J Goldie 10 9-9 — P Mulrennan 86
2 (4) 632L4-3 **MONKS DREAM (22) (C&D,F)** T Easterby 5 9-8 — S B Kirrane 86
3 (3) 612-1L5 **KING'S CROWN (13) (C&D)** M Dods 6 9-7 — Rhys Elliott(5) 85
4 (2) 54439-3 **MISSION COMMAND (21) (D)** J Candlish 4 9-7 — G Wood 88
5 (7) 6403-52 **CASTAN (29) (C&D)** B Smart 6 9-5 — D Nolan 86
6 (1) 54481-7 **HOVER ON THE WIND (34) (C&D)** P Midgley 6 9-1

NFL: SUPER BOWL

Patriots star Diggs dresses down critics

FROM **KEITH WEBSTER** in San Francisco

HE touched down in California, dressed as though he had raided rapper girlfriend Cardi B's wardrobe.

But Stefon Diggs has never cared about what people think of him and dropped an F-bomb when he set his sights on the Twitterati over criticism of his brother, Trevon.

The New England Patriots wide receiver, 32, was talking at the team's first media outing of the week ahead of Sunday's Super Bowl when the subject came up of the reaction to his younger sibling's recent bust-up with, and departure from, the Dallas Cowboys.

"I always tell my brother, don't take things personally from people you don't know," said Diggs, who acted as a father figure to his two younger brothers after their father died of congestive heart failure at 39 when Stefon was 14.

"There's going to be a million people that have opinions on you. I have big shoulders. Personally, I don't give a f***, excuse my language. So long as you are living right, working hard, trying your best.

"He's a hell of a player. He's only 27. I want him to learn and grow.

"I care about my brother, I want the best for him. Anybody talking about him, I wish I could fight them all.

"All I can do is make sure he's in a good head space and staying positive and keeping focused on the things that matter and not on all the things people say because I don't care about that s***.

"If you don't affect my bank account or my family, what do I care about it."

Diggs led the Patriots this season with 85 catches for 1,013 yards and four touchdowns and should be a big threat on Sunday. He will hope to walk away with a Super Bowl ring, the traditional prize in American sports rather than a medal.

He has been in a relationship with Cardi B since October 2024 and she gave birth to the couple's son three months ago which prompted the question about whether she might be the one getting a ring this week.

"It's on the agenda, maybe. Right?" he said with laugh. "I've got to get mine first, though."

GO FUR IT Diggs styles it out on his way to Super Bowl

FIRE AND ICE

Hill almost died in accident now she's ready for Games

BY **PAUL EDDISON**

THE list of injuries suffered by Maisie Hill three years ago reads more like a casualty of war than a future Olympian.

The snowboarder crashed into a wall of ice during a training session in Switzerland in January 2023, leaving her with a lacerated liver, a broken spine, ribs and pelvis, a fractured lung and a bleed on the brain.

The 24-year-old lost 20 percent of her blood and almost died as a result.

The fact she is even walking again is remarkable, let alone preparing for her Olympic debut at Milano Cortina.

Then again, they do say that Olympians are a different breed.

Hill said: "I'm so proud of myself. It's been a big journey for sure, I'm trying to enjoy snowboarding every day. I'm so grateful to still be able to do it. Before (the accident), I was looser with it but now I'm a little bit more calculated.

"I think that comes with age as well. In the beginning after coming back, I was just so fired up. It was really, really good.

"It wasn't until a couple months down the line that I started to have a few niggles and had troubles with things. But I worked through it and saw a sports psychologist. I got through it.

"My rehab was nine months, so it was pretty quick considering my injury."

Those nine months involved weekly physio sessions at Bath University and an extensive recovery programme funded by the British Olympic Association and overseen by GB Snowsport.

Given the severity of the injuries, it was not an easy period, but for Hill, inspiration came from her family, and in particular, her grandmother Jean.

She said: "My grandma is 91 now and she just refuses to go into a wheelchair. She wants to be up and about all the time.

"When I was in hospital, I was thinking about her all the time and thinking if she can get up and do stuff, I've got to be able to do it as well.

"She was a big inspiration for me when I was injured. Her and my grandad. I never met him, but everyone says we look exactly the same and we are really similar.

"He was a six-time world champion powerboat racer and he had a lot of motivation and fire, I think I inherited that from him. I think about him a lot when I'm riding."

Your guide to the Games - all you need to know about the Winter Olympics. Order now by scanning the QR code or by visiting reachshops.co.uk/winterolympics. Also available at participating retailers.

UPHILL BATTLE The British snowboard star has made an incredible recovery to be ready for her Olympic debut

'I'm so proud of myself. It's been a big journey. I'm trying to enjoy snowboarding every day'

LOOKING GOOD FOR GOLD ON WESTON FRONT

FROM **WILL JENNINGS** in Cortina

AMY WILLIAMS is backing Matt Weston to block out the noise and emulate her gold-medal glory at the Winter Olympics.

Skeleton star Weston, 28, heads to Italy as current world No.1 and red-hot favourite to match Williams' historic achievement at Vancouver 2010.

Williams (right) clinched Team GB's first Winter gold for 30 years in Canada before Lizzy Yarnold grabbed more British glory in Sochi and PyeongChang. Weston descends on the Dolomites - alongside team-mate and world No.3 Marcus Wyatt - as the current world, European and overall World Cup champion.

Williams, 43, has loved watching Weston's rise and says staying calm under pressure can propel him to gold.

She said: "Matt has just consistently got better and better. And once you've done that and you've got it inside you, your self-belief is just sky high. It is a big expectation - but personally I think you just have to not think about it. Put it away, concentrate on you. Just concentrate on you, your nutrition and making sure your recovery's good.

"Concentrate on what you're doing, write track notes, do a track walk and just treat it like any other competition. If he can do all of that, he will fly."

TNT Sports on discovery+ will be the go-to destination in the U.K to watch everything of Milano Cortina 2026 live all in one place, with over 850 hours of action from every sport, venue, and medal event.

LINDSEY VONN is "confident" she can compete at the Milano Cortina Winter Olympics this week despite suffering a torn ACL.

Vonn crashed in a World Cup downhill in Crans-Montana, Switzerland last Friday.

She said: "My knee is not swollen, and with the help of a knee brace, I am confident that I can compete on Sunday. I will do everything in my power to be in the starting gate."

Sam ready to take on World after another starring role

JOS PERFECT! Buttler dismisses Dunith Wellalage and (below) Bethell joy after the wicket of Dushmantha Chameera

FROM **SCOTT HUNT** in Kandy

SAM CURRAN is thrilled to be contributing to England wins with bat and ball after underlining his all-round capabilities in the 3-0 T20 series victory over Sri Lanka.

The Surrey man claimed England's second T20 hat-trick in the opening match last week and hit 58 from 54 balls to lead his side's recovery in the 12-run win yesterday.

England were 60-6 on a used wicket in Kandy before Curran dragged them to 128-9 and their spinners claimed nine wickets in a T20 for the first time to seal a series clean sweep.

England fly to Mumbai today ahead of Sunday's T20 World Cup opener against Nepal and the 27-year-old, who was named player of the tournament when England won the trophy in 2022, will again do so full of belief.

"I take confidence massively and it's just great to be back playing for England. I'm extremely excited for the next couple of weeks," Curran said.

"I know my role with the ball is going to be quite flexible and I'm pretty happy with that. I guess just really pleased to get some runs as well and get this series win.

"To win away from home 3-0, that's the lowest score we've defended as well which is pretty cool to say.

"Fly to Mumbai tomorrow so straight on that plane, excited to get stuck into our first game against Nepal.

"I guess we take one game at a time and it's a very exciting time for every player going into the World Cup and hopefully we can now have a good couple of weeks and go really far into the tournament." Curran is a regular in the top order for Surrey and for franchise teams around the world and has been given the chance to bat at six for England in this series.

Curran shows he can be the tournament hero yet again

It is an opportunity he has relished, adding: "I guess I do that a lot for the teams that I play for.

"I love my batting, I love my bowling, so I think to be a good, top quality all-rounder, I know I just have to keep doing a lot of work on both my batting and bowling. Whenever the team needs me, whatever position that is in, I'm hoping I can perform for England throughout this World Cup and hopefully be sitting here in similar scenes to 2022."

'Hopefully we can now have a good couple of weeks and go really far into the tournament'

Jacob Bethell took 4-11 and Will Jacks 3-14 as they backed up lead spinner Adil Rashid and Liam Dawson in a brilliant display to bowl out Sri Lanka for 116 – recording their lowest successful defence in T20 cricket.

"I think our spinners have bowled well throughout. I guess we know Adil's our main strike bowler alongside Dawson. You see how Jacksy and Beth are bowling exceptionally well," Curran added.

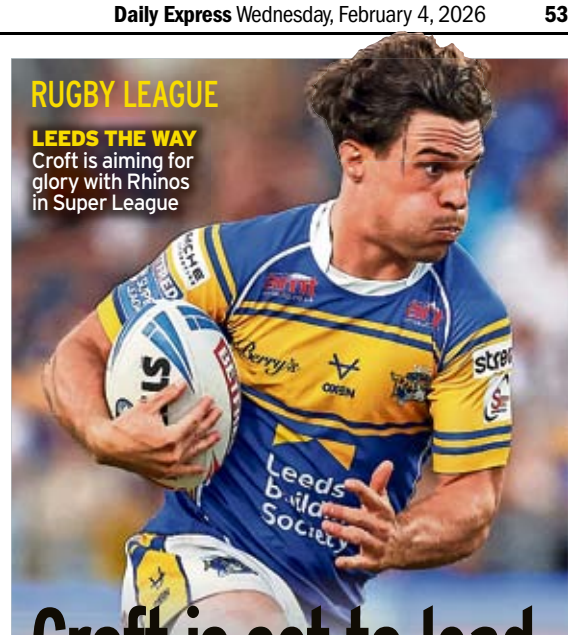
"I was loving it. I was standing on the boundary and the ball was turning massively and the rate was going up.

"There's lots of missed chances, a lot of good bowling, so I think the spinners can take great confidence from that.

"Our spinners stood up to defend 130 and it's an amazing achievement."

DEADLY Curran smashes a fine boundary on his way to scoring 58

RUGBY LEAGUE



LEEDS THE WAY Croft is aiming for glory with Rhinos in Super League

Croft is set to lead Rhinos charge with the Lach unlocked

BY **DANIEL TOMLINSON**

BRODIE CROFT insists Leeds Rhinos are ready and raring for the new Super League season.

Croft has enjoyed a full pre-season alongside Lachie Miller and Jake Connor – a luxury Leeds didn't have last year with Miller injured and Connor filling in at full-back.

But come the mid-season point of 2025, it all changed.

The trio were tasked by head coach Brad Arthur to lead the Rhinos' charge to the play-offs – a challenge they relished.

After suffering defeat against St Helens last year, they are aiming to go one step further and Croft is feeling confident.

He said: "In the last pre-season, Lachie was injured, so he was doing his own thing at the club with the trainers.

"Jake was building his way into the team and he wasn't even the first-choice half at the start of last season.

"It wasn't until around half way through the year that we all started playing week-in, week-out together, and we just kept building from there.

"We got to a good point at the end of the year, and we were playing some really good footy together. Hopefully after having half a season together and a full pre-season, we can take it into 2026 and get to the next level.

"We've been training hard. This is where you build your reps and combinations, and we didn't get to do that last year."

Finding his groove with Connor, Croft hit some strong form for Leeds last year, with Miller chiming in and it's a system the trio know inside out.

"We play as hybrid halves where you're not just locked into one side," Croft explained. "That's a big thing between us. We all want to be linking up together and getting our hands on the ball.

"The more you play with each other, the more you pick up each other's traits and what we're looking to do and where we're looking to break teams down.

"We can definitely build on that for this year. We're fit and firing to go again now. I can't wait to get back out there. We're ready to go."

Rhinos take on Widnes in the Challenge Cup on Saturday before getting their Super League campaign underway the following Friday at Leigh.

SUPER DUO 2025 Man of Steel Connor and, right, Miller

SHINING Stockdale can inflict misery on France

Stock is ready to be a rock for the Irish

IRELAND boss Andy Farrell has backed Jacob Stockdale to make the most of his first Six Nations appearance in five years.

The in-form Ulster player received a major vote of confidence from Farrell after being selected on the left wing ahead of James Lowe for tomorrow night's tournament opener in France.

Stockdale, 29, was named player of the championship in 2018 but has been a peripheral figure for most of the Farrell era.

"He's back to being himself this year, that's for sure," the head coach said of Stockdale.

"I think if you speak to him, he'd be delighted that he's just simplified things and got down to what he's good at, and that's beating people.

"And we've seen that plenty, certainly this season. Jacob is playing well. He deserves his chance."

Antoine Dupont will return to captain defending champions France.

The Toulouse scrum-half has not played at international level since rupturing the ACL in his right knee during Les Bleus' 42-27 win in Dublin last February. Head coach Fabien Galthie said: "Antoine Dupont gives us more.

"That also places demands on the rest of the team, to raise our work rate in order to meet the ambition he has, and that is why he is our captain."

RAD'S GLAD ALL ARE FIT

LEE RADFORD reported a clean bill of health for the Scotland squad ahead of their Guinness Six Nations opener away to Italy on Saturday.

Scrum-half Jamie Dobie had been struggling with a knee issue, while his Glasgow team-mate Jack Dempsey sustained a foot injury in training last week.

Defence coach Radford said: "Yeah, all good, they trained today. Dobs looks well, both of them are in great form at the moment.

"They didn't participate last week (for Glasgow) but the rest will have done them the world of good. I think they've had a 10-game streak there at Glasgow so it's a fair amount of rugby. Hopefully they'll be fresh for this weekend.

"We're all good, nobody's pulled out today, so everybody that was initially named is ready to go."

Northampton defence coach Radford is preparing for his first Six Nations since becoming part of Gregor Townsend's backroom staff.

TOMMY'S PUTTING PEDAL TO THE MEDAL

HAVING A BALL Freeman in training as he prepares to face the Welsh

Freeman in a hurry to end England trophy drought... starting with Six Nations

FROM **ADAM HATHAWAY** in Girona

TOMMY FREEMAN reckons England's silverware delivery is way overdue and the Six Nations is the time to put that right.

England might be on a run of 11 straight wins under Steve Borthwick but they have not put any major trophies in the Twickenham cabinet since 2020.

Freeman, starting at centre and not wing in Saturday's opener with Wales, has now earned 22 England caps but does not have anything to show for them on the medal front.

But England have made no secret of their big ambitions for this Six Nations and beyond and, over the past 12 months, have started to believe they can end the drought.

Freeman said: "We want to stick our chests out. We are hard to beat, and you have seen that over the last year and we recognise that and we will have a bit of swagger about us.

"Something Steve is always talking about is getting used to lifting silverware. We want to be winning as much as possible, and that's the end game. Games look better than others and the performance can be different and not as good but getting the win is the most important thing.

"That's definitely at the forefront of our minds – we're going to win. That's what every competition is about and every team wants to do the same thing. If we can do that, that would be lovely and, having a few caps now, you want to win as much as you can.

"The place is unbelievable to be around, we are all good mates and we are building the connections. It has been the same faces over the last couple of years so it is a really good spot to be in."

England rounded off last year's Six Nations with a 68-14 destruction of Wales in Cardiff but still finished second to France in the table.

That March evening, everything Borthwick's side tried turned to gold as they ran in 10 tries with Freeman's touchdown ensuring he scored in every match of the tournament. He added: "The coaches gave us a mindset of 'mistakes happen'. You can have 82,000 people watching and there is a fear of going into your shell a bit, and start playing tentatively.

"But that week the coaches freed us up and said, 'You're always going to make mistakes, and if that happens it's doing your next job'. I think that showed.

"We wanted to move the ball, we played in the right areas and hopefully we can do that again this weekend."

Head coach Borthwick (left) had mixed injury news from camp in Girona as he confirmed prop Fin Baxter will miss the whole Six Nations with a foot injury.

But fly-half Fin Smith (calf) has been training fully and is in contention for the round two clash with Scotland, while wing Tom Roebuck (toe) and centre Ollie Lawrence (knee) also have an outside chance of making it.

Ben Curry's hamstring injury is set to keep him out at least until the latter stages of the tournament.

UP FOR IT Mann relishing the challenge against England

Welsh ace is the Mann to get under skin of rivals

BY **PHIL BLANCHE**

WALES flanker Alex Mann admitted he likes getting "under people's skin" ahead of his back-row battle with England at Allianz Stadium.

Mann found himself the centre of attention after being gouged by South Africa lock Eben Etzebeth during Wales' autumn campaign.

Etzebeth claimed his actions were a reaction to being struck by Mann and that the gouge was not intentional, and the Cardiff back-rower is relishing coming up against the likes of Guy Pepper, Sam Underhill, Tom Curry and Henry Pollock in Saturday's Guinness Six Nations opener.

"I quite like trying to get under people's skin and I'm sure people try to do it to me as well," said Mann. "That stuff is just part of the game and I'm just looking forward to what's ahead.

"They're really good players, we know that, but I don't really think we put too much energy into that.

"It's all on us now and what we can do rather than what they're bringing. That's the exciting bit for us as a group."

Mann was not involved when England romped to a record 68-14 Six Nations victory in Cardiff last March.

Mann said of rival Pollock: "I would say we are (different characters) but I think we're both niggly, so it should be an interesting battle.

"That's his character and fair play to him."

LIVERPOOL ARE UNITED

Van Dijk says season has been tough but squad is together

BY **IAN DOYLE**

IT was a fitting end to an emotional Anfield evening.

As the Liverpool players rushed to celebrate with Ibrahima Konate after his goal capped victory over Newcastle on Saturday, it highlighted a squad that remains united.

Skipper Virgil van Dijk, though, is not surprised. "I don't think there has been any question about that internally," he said. "I don't think there's any disharmony.

"There are obviously challenges and everyone is dealing with certain situations in a different way.

"It's also about dealing with it together and how we are going to fix it. That's something that makes you stronger as a team and if you come out of it – like we should do, hopefully, as we have the quality – then I think it can only improve you as a team."

The injury-time strike from Konate (above) that sealed a 4-1 win came on his first appearance after returning early from compassionate leave following the death of his father last month.

"I'm very proud of him," said Van Dijk.

"The performance before the goal was outstanding in my opinion and for him to then get the cherry on top with the goal, it was written in the stars.

"We've had two good performances, good energy, good atmosphere inside the stadium. It's something to build on."

Anfield has stirred during the past week with Arne Slot's side having three days earlier sealed a top eight Champions League berth and progress direct to the last 16 with a 6-0 thrashing of Qarabag.

Nevertheless, with Liverpool still in sixth place in the Premier League, the scrutiny remains ahead of Sunday's seismic visit of second-placed Manchester City.

And Van Dijk has no issue with the criticism of Liverpool's campaign despite the club's supporters having long gained a reputation for showing patience with their team.

"No, no, no," he said. "The matter of fact is we are Premier League champions and we have not been good enough on a consistent basis. That's just a fact.

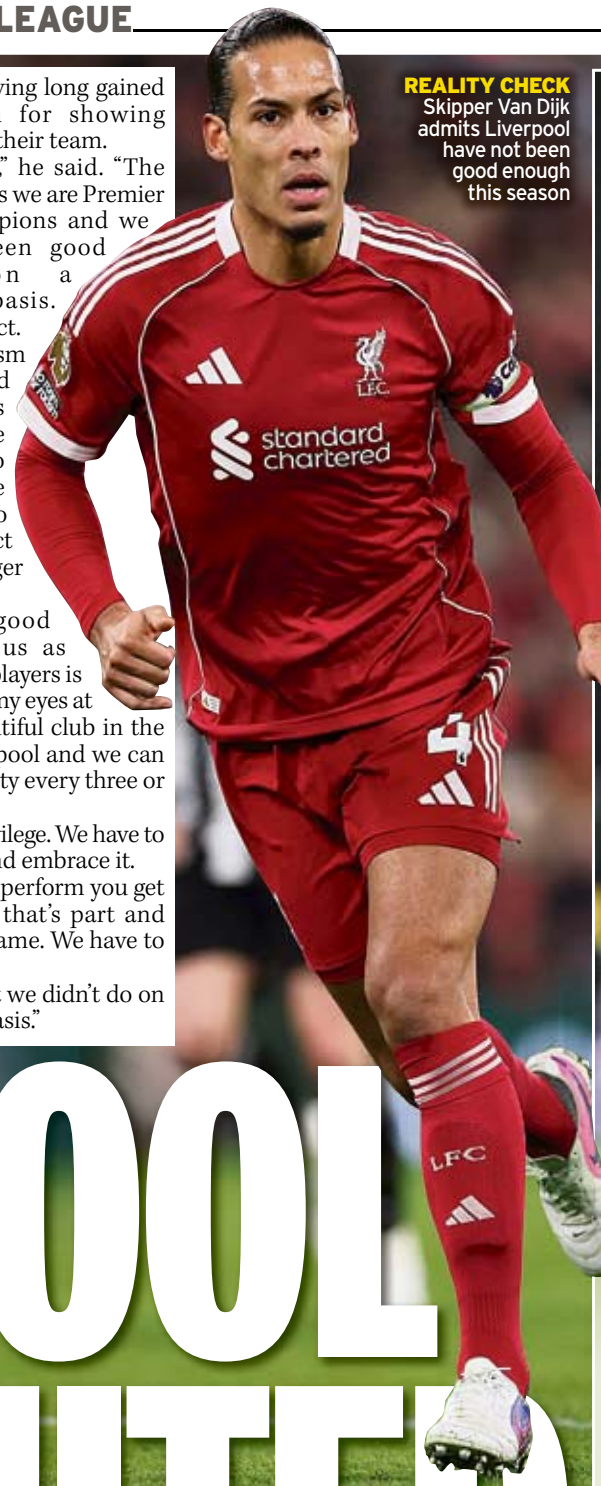
"The criticism comes and that's something we just have to accept. No one is perfect, no player is perfect and no manager is perfect.

"But the good thing is for us as manager and players is that we are in my eyes at the most beautiful club in the world at Liverpool and we can show our quality every three or four days.

"That's a privilege. We have to just go for it and embrace it.

"If you don't perform you get criticism and that's part and parcel of the game. We have to perform.

"That's what we didn't do on a consistent basis."



REALITY CHECK Skipper Van Dijk admits Liverpool have not been good enough this season

YOUNG TALENT Liverpool splashed out £60m on defender Jacquet

JACQUET: HONOUR TO JOIN GREAT CLUB

BY **MICHAEL PLANT**

JEREMY JACQUET says it is an honour to join "one of the greatest football institutions in the world" after securing a £60million move to Liverpool.

Jacquet's switch from Rennes was confirmed on Monday, although the 20-year-old will not meet up with his new team-mates until next season, with the transfer being ratified from July 1.

The Reds have agreed to pay an initial £55m with a further £5m in add-ons, with Jacquet signing a five-year contract that can be extended by a further 12 months.

Liverpool are confident they have landed one of the world's most promising centre-backs.

Jacquet said: "I am honoured to sign for Liverpool, one of the greatest football institutions in the world.

"It was also very important for me to finish my time in red and black (of Rennes) on a high, at my boyhood club, the club of my heart."

SNOOKER

MASTERS champion Kyren Wilson slumped to a 5-2 defeat against China's Xiao Guodong at the World Grand Prix in Hong Kong.

Xiao took control after breaks of 87 and 86, which he followed with two more half-century runs, to end Wilson's hopes of reaching the last 16.

Mark Selby closed out an impressive 5-0 win against Aaron Hill, while Elliot Slessor came from 2-0 down to beat Stuart Bingham 5-2.

Masters runner-up Wu Yize continued his recent good form with a 5-3 win over Scotland's Anthony McGill.

WORLD OF SPORT

LIV-id over points

GOLF

BY **NEIL McLEMAN**

LIV GOLF has slammed the "unprecedented" decision to only award world ranking points to top-10 finishers in another blow to the Saudi-backed league.

KOEPKA

The breakaway tour has been rocked by the departures of Brooks Koepka and Patrick Reed.

But LIV Golf had been confident of being awarded full rankings points for the new 14-event season starting in Riyadh today after a long campaign. Events will be played over 72 holes and the fields have been increased to 57 players with more promotion and relegation to make the league less of a closed shop.

A LIV statement said: "This outcome is unprecedented. Under these rules, a player finishing 11th in a LIV Golf event is treated the same as a player finishing 57th. Limiting points to only the top 10 finishers disproportionately harms players who consistently perform at a high level."

THE BIG PICTURE

SPECIAL DELIVERY Michael Neser gives it his all while bowling for Queensland

TENNIS

KATIE BOULTER survived a scare to get her Ostrava Open campaign in the Czech Republic up and running.

Boulter, who is desperate to get her career back on track after a torrid 2025, beat world No.276 Lucie Havlickova 6-4 3-6 6-1. The British No.4, whose ranking has fallen to 120, faces world No.89 Viktorija Golubic of Switzerland next.

10 to tackle

1. Who scored two tries for Bath Rugby in the 2025-2026 Gallagher PREM Round 8 home defeat by Northampton Saints?

2. By what score did Nick Kyrgios beat Aryna Sabalenka in a 'Battle of the Sexes' match in Dubai in December, 2025?

3. Who made an unbeaten 123 for West Indies in the 3rd Test defeat by New Zealand in Mount Maunganui in December, 2025?

4. Who in 1982 became the only player to miss in a penalty shoot-out for Germany at a World Cup finals?

5. Which racecourse stages the Welsh Grand National?

6. Which American athlete was known as Flo-Jo?

7. Which South African golfer won the 2022 Women's Open at Muirfield?

8. Which American knocked out Mark Breland to win the WBA Welterweight title in 1987 and Lloyd Honeyghan to win the WBC title in the same weight division in 1989?

9. In addition to yellow and red cards, what other colour of card is used by a hockey referee?

10. Which American city is home to the basketball team known as the Lakers?

RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Thomas du Toit. 2 6-3 6-3. 3 Kavem Hodge. 4 Uli Stielke against France. 5 Chepstow. 6 Florence Griffith Joyner. 7 Ashleigh Buhai. 8 Marlon Starling. 9 Green. 10 Los Angeles.

That's one Rom rant too many

COMMENT

BY **JOHN CROSS**

ONCE again it looks like Cristian Romero will have some explaining to do.

The Tottenham captain (above) took to social media to claim it was "disgraceful" that Spurs only had 11 fit players to choose from against Manchester City on Sunday.

At worst, it is a clear dig at Tottenham's lack of transfer activity. At best, it shows a lack of respect towards the club.

Even the best case scenario is really damaging. This, after all, was on the back of a heroic fightback from 2-0 down at half time to draw 2-2 with City.

And they did it without Romero, who went off ill at half time after, frankly, putting in a dreadful performance.

This is far from the first time that Romero has used social media to get his message across and also not the first time people have suspected that he may be agitating for a move.

Only last month, his social media post had to be edited to take out the word "lies" when talking about a lack of support from the club's hierarchy.

Do not forget that Romero is a World Cup winner, the club captain and, on his day, a world-class defender. On his off days, he is a liability who loses his head and costs his team.

Romero's comments cut to the very heart of the club's problem. Leaders.

He is supposed to be a leader, he wears the armband. But it almost feels he has been given it because of a lack of other obvious candidates. There must be a few now after this last outburst.

Tottenham clearly need to improve their squad. They tried to do it in January but were determined not to panic buy.

Instead, they signed Conor Gallagher for £34million, a top player with a great attitude, and one for the future in Brazilian Souza.

They also got James Wilson from Hearts but he is destined for the under-21s.

They tried – and failed – for more and Thomas Frank even went public on the fact they were in for Antoine Semenyo.

They want Premier League players and good characters. They have a strategy. They will go again in the summer. But this is a club struggling and in need of leadership to get them through some dark days, despite their progress in the Champions League.

The last thing they need is Romero pressing the self destruct button. Maybe he is a player they could actually do without, because his outbursts and his performances are so wrong.

MEN IN DEMAND
Wharton, Alvarez and Anderson will all be wanted men this summer

BROKEN WINDOW

Lack of excitement and big January deals as clubs keep power dry until the summer

PALACE PAY DAY
The Eagles signed striker Strand Larsen for £48m

BY **JOHN CROSS**

THE quietest deadline day on record ended a very underwhelming transfer window.

Premier League clubs spent £390million on new signings, the third biggest winter total, with Jorgen Strand Larsen's £48m move from Wolves to Crystal Palace the biggest deadline deal.

That was one of just seven last-minute deals completed, which plays into the prospect of another summer spending spree ahead.

You can be certain that Nottingham Forest's Elliot Anderson will be top of the wanted list for several teams including Manchester United and Manchester City.

Crystal Palace's Adam Wharton is another hot property and is almost certain to fetch a huge fee and be at the centre of a big transfer tug-of-war.

They are the big-money deals likely to happen this summer with United also keen on Wharton.

City may look to Anderson depending on Rodri, because the Ballon D'Or winner is still struggling to get his form back after such a long-term injury.

Many clubs maxed out their spending in the summer

There has also been talk of Arsenal going big for Julian Alvarez in another mega striker move, while Tottenham, Chelsea, Newcastle and the rest will spend again.

Last summer was a record-breaking £3billion spend on new players as clubs went for broke in the market. Many clubs maxed out their allowances and, while they may have the cash, just could not spend it within the rules.

That is perhaps why this window has been so quiet. After the boom came the bust and this should be labelled as the 'sensible window'.

Television presenters still feign shock and shake their heads in disbelief at Axel Disasi moving from Chelsea to West Ham on loan. Sorry, but it is not that amazing.

Not a single Premier League arrival was confirmed until 7.04pm – four minutes after the window in the English top flight closed – with Crystal Palace announcing the Larsen deal. Clubs can make signings for two hours after the 7pm deadline but have to submit the paperwork in time.

The net spend of Premier League clubs was only £137million

Sunderland brought in Ecuador winger Nilson Angulo from Anderlecht for £17.5m while Wolves signed midfielder Angel Gomes from Marseille on loan and striker Adam Armstrong from Southampton for £7m.

Liverpool did agree a deal on deadline day to sign defender Jeremy Jacquet from Rennes, but that move – and the payment of the £60m fee – will not be completed until June.

There were only eight signings of £20m or more with City the biggest spenders as they splashed nearly £100m on Marc Guehi and Antoine Semenyo.

Tottenham paid £34m to Atletico Madrid for Conor Gallagher, but the net spend of the clubs was only £137m.

That is probably good news for the Premier League as it keeps money in-house.

City went for Guehi and Semenyo as they are Premier League-ready and if clubs are signing players from each other, it suggests they think the best players are already here.

McNEIL'S PARTNER FUMING AT MOVE

FROM BACK PAGE

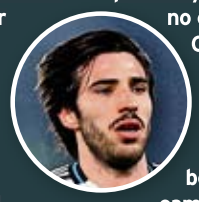
before the deadline. Palace are sympathetic to McNeil's situation but their position is understood to be that initial discussions about the fee began at the £10m mark.

And despite a deal worth double that being agreed late in the day, there were complications regarding the payment structure. McNeil's partner, Megan Sharpley (left), launched a scathing attack on Palace via Instagram in the early hours of yesterday morning over their alleged treatment of the 26-year-old.

She fumed: "Tonight, and the last 48 hours, have broken my heart to see how the football world you love so much can be so cruel to you. To have something promised to you, you have been dragged along an emotional rollercoaster, and to be toyed with until the final minute.

"To have four-and-a-half years of your life promised to you, travelling, medicals, agreements made... promises made. To have prepared to move your entire life, our lives, hundreds of miles away in the space of a few hours. For it to be torn away from you at the last second, with absolutely no explanation. Going from everything – to radio silence, no phone call, no communication and be left broken-hearted with nothing but confusion, has hurt more than I can say."

TONALI 'WON'T DO AN ISAK ON US'



EDDIE HOWE insists he does not fear a repeat of the bitter Alexander Isak transfer saga after holding deadline-day talks with Sandro Tonali.

Italy midfielder Tonali (inset) was linked with Arsenal following claims he had been offered to them by his agent. Newcastle insisted privately that there had been no contact with the Gunners, while his agent also denied the claims.

But asked whether he feared there could be a repeat of the campaign orchestrated by Isak and his team to force through the striker's switch to Liverpool, the Toon boss said: "I don't think so, but lots of things happen without my knowledge.

"As far as I'm aware, we've got a player that's an outstanding footballer, an outstanding person.

"He's very happy here, he's got a great relationship with me, his team-mates, he seems really, really happy within himself, so that would surprise me.

"Sandro's absolutely fine. I had discussions with Sandro yesterday. He's absolutely focused on the here, the now, playing for us.

"There's absolutely no issue with Sandro himself and he's very happy and committed."

Howe's window gamble as Toon tighten their belts

EDDIE'S BLEAK MIDWINTER

RISKY BUSINESS Eddie Howe did not make a move in January

BY **LEE RYDER**

NEWCASTLE boss Eddie Howe admits that the Magpies are taking a risk by not making new signings in the winter transfer window.

Howe is confident that Newcastle can still have a strong finish to the season IF they can avoid injury woes.

United go into tonight's Carabao Cup clash with Manchester City 2-0 down from the first leg and with an absentee list that includes defensive trio Tino Livramento, Emil Krafth and Fabian Schar.

Newcastle also opted not to keep Jamaal Lascelles, who has joined Leicester, or recall Matt Targett from his loan at Middlesbrough.

But Howe said: "The squad is OK. If it was a fully fit squad, it would be really strong.

MAN CITY (2) v NEWCASTLE (0)
Carabao Cup semi-final 2nd leg: KO 8pm

"Of course it is not, so you have to get players fit.

"Until we do that, there is an imbalance, and we are certainly stretched defensively. But I am happy with the squad when it is at full strength."

Asked why new recruits were not brought in, Howe said: "Financially, it wasn't possible – as I said at the start of the window.

"There were players we were looking at for the future, younger players we could develop. Ultimately, it didn't happen. I didn't think there was a player coming in that could affect us."

Pushed on whether the lack of transfer activity was a risk, Howe conceded: "Yes. But I think I chose my words – we were left with no other option.

"Every decision we make has a long-term implication. There is no guarantee signing somebody, with the funds we had, would help us short-term.

"We are used to working in these conditions now.

"We have only been active in one window out of the last four or five.

"We are under financial restrictions. We have to be smart and decided to wait until the summer.

"The summer window is a lot easier to recruit. There are more players available and better value for money." Howe's options tonight could be further limited with Bruno Guimaraes (inset) unlikely to feature and Lewis Miley also nursing an injury.

The Toon boss knows his side are up against at the Etihad, admitting: "There's no bigger challenge than Manchester City away but we believe in ourselves.

"We believe we have the players that can go to any stadium in the world and perform and score goals."

TEAMS

MANCHESTER CITY (4-3-3): Donnarumma; Nunes, Khusanov, Ake, Ait-Nouri; Gonzalez, O'Reilly, Foden; Semenyo, Haaland, Marmoush
NEWCASTLE (4-3-3): Pope; Trippier, Thiaw, Burn, Hall; Willock, Tonali, Ramsey; Barnes, Wissa, Gordon
REFEREE: Tony Harrington

TOP NET SPEND IN LAST FIVE YEARS

Man United	£675m
Arsenal	£663m
Chelsea	£651m
Tottenham	£574m
Newcastle	£424m
Liverpool	£420m
Man City	£396m

Pep says show me the trophies

FROM BACK PAGE

against Newcastle, Guardiola quipped: "I'm a little bit sad and upset because in net spend in the last five years we are seventh in the league.

"I want to be the first, I don't understand why the club doesn't spend more money. I am a little bit grumpy with them."

The irked City boss then rounded on their rivals, claiming the expectation and pressure should lie with the six teams that have spent more than them: Manchester United, Arsenal, Chelsea, Spurs, Newcastle and Liverpool (boss Arne Slot, right).

He added: "But like we won in the past because we spent a lot, now six teams have to win the Premier Leagues, Champions Leagues and FA Cups because they spent more in the last five years. These are facts.

"You can say an opinion, like you say you play good or bad against Spurs. But they are facts. Good luck to the teams in front of us for net spend."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Carabao Cup Semi-final Second Leg

ARSENAL (0)..... 1 **CHELSEA (0) 0**
Havertz 90
Arsenal win 4-2 on aggregate.

Sky Bet Championship

BLACKBURN (1)..... 1 **SHEFF WED (0) 0**
Cashin 12

HULL (0)..... 0 **WATFORD (0) 0**
Att: 20,441

PORTSMOUTH ..... P **IPSWICH ..... P**
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.

SHEFF UTD (1)..... 3 **OXFORD UTD (1)... 1**
Peck 41, Brooks 66
Ogbene 83
Peart-Harris 14
Att: 26,436

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coventry	30	17	7	6	63	35	58
Middlesbro	30	17	7	6	47	29	58
Hull	30	16	6	8	48	40	54
Ipswich	29	14	9	6	49	28	51
Millwall	30	14	8	8	37	36	50
Wrexham	30	12	11	7	44	37	47
Derby	30	12	9	9	44	37	45
Watford	30	11	11	8	39	35	44
Preston	30	11	11	8	37	34	44
Bristol City	30	12	7	11	40	36	43
QPR	30	12	7	11	42	43	43
Stoke	30	12	6	12	34	28	42
Birmingham	30	11	9	10	41	38	42
Southampton	30	10	10	10	43	41	40
Sheff Utd	30	12	3	15	43	43	39
Swansea	30	11	6	13	34	37	39
Leicester	30	10	8	12	40	45	38
Charlton	29	9	8	12	29	38	35
Norwich	30	9	6	15	37	42	33
Portsmouth	28	8	9	11	27	37	33
Blackburn	30	8	8	14	27	38	32
West Brom	30	9	5	16	32	47	32
Oxford Utd	30	6	9	15	28	41	27
Sheff Wed	30	1	8	21	18	58	-7

Sky Bet League One

BARNSLEY (1) ..... 2 **NORTHAMPTON (1) 2**
McGoldrick 30
Phillips 62
Guinness-Walker 3
Dyche 71
Att: 8,806

BURTON ALB (0) .... 1 **DONCASTER (2).... 2**
Lofthouse 74
Molyneux 2 (pen)
Bailey 12
Att: 3,069

PORT VALE (0)..... 0 **AFC WIMB'DN (0). 1**
Maycock 88
Att: 4,534

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cardiff	29	18	6	5	52	29	60
Lincoln City	29	17	7	5	48	29	58
Bolton	30	14	10	6	38	27	52
Stockport Cty	29	15	7	7	42	35	52
Bradford	28	14	7	7	36	31	49
Huddersfield	30	14	6	10	51	40	48
Luton	29	12	6	11	38	34	42
Stevenage	28	11	9	8	30	27	42
Wycombe	29	10	10	9	36	31	40
Reading	28	10	10	8	39	35	40
Mansfield	27	10	8	9	36	30	38
Peterborough	29	12	2	15	37	39	38
Exeter	28	11	4	13	33	30	37
Barnsley	26	10	7	9	42	43	37
Plymouth	29	11	4	14	36	42	37
AFC Wimbledn	28	10	5	13	29	36	35
Doncaster	29	9	6	14	33	46	33
Blackpool	29	9	5	15	35	42	32
Leyton Orient	29	9	5	15	40	49	32
Wigan	28	7	10	11	29	34	31
Rotherham	28	8	7	13	31	40	31
Burton Albion	29	8	7	14	31	43	31
Northampton	29	8	6	15	26	38	30
Port Vale	27	5	6	16	20	38	21

Sky Bet League Two

BARNET (1)..... 1 **CREWE (1) 1**
Tshimanga 7
Lunt 32

BRISTOL R (0)..... 2 **WALSALL (0)..... 0**
Akhamrich 61
Balmer 64
Att: 6,291

HARROGATE (0) ..... 0 **SWINDON (0) 1**
Drinan 84 (pen)

NOTTS CO (1) ..... 1 **GILLINGHAM (0)... 0**
Robertson 27
Att: 8,731

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bromley	29	17	8	4	52	31	59
Notts County	29	16	6	7	44	29	54
Cambridge	28	15	8	5	38	22	53
Swindon	29	16	4	9	47	34	52
Salford City	28	16	4	8	41	34	52
MK Dons	29	14	9	6	56	31	51
Walsall	29	14	7	8	37	28	49
Chesterfield	29	11	12	6	46	39	45
Grimsby	28	12	8	8	41	32	44
Crewe	30	12	8	10	46	38	44
Barnet	29	11	10	8	37	30	43
Colchester	28	11	9	8	41	31	42
Accrington	28	11	7	10	34	30	40
Gillingham	28	9	11	8	38	35	38
Fleetwood	28	10	7	11	37	37	37
Oldham	27	8	11	8	28	26	35
Tranmere	29	8	8	13	42	49	32
Cheltenham	28	9	3	16	27	48	30
Bristol Rovers	29	8	3	18	26	47	27
Crawley Town	29	6	8	15	32	47	26
Barrow	27	6	6	15	28	42	24
Shrewsbury	28	5	8	15	23	47	23
Newport Cty	28	5	5	18	29	54	20
Harrogate Tn	30	4	6	20	20	49	18

Enterprise National Lge

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rochdale	27	22	1	4	53	18	67
York	29	19	8	2	76	28	65
Carlisle	29	18	5	6	52	34	59
Forest Green	30	16	10	4	52	31	58
Boreham Wood	29	17	5	7	55	34	56
Scunthorpe	27	16	8	3	49	30	56
FC Halifax	29	14	5	10	45	39	47
Southend	27	13	7	7	44	25	46
Hartlepool	30	11	11	8	32	29	44
Solihull Moors	30	11	8	11	50	44	41
Woking	28	9	8	11	38	33	35
Wealdstone	27	9	8	10	34	41	35
Tamworth	28	10	5	13	33	47	35
Brackley	28	8	8	12	24	35	32
Yeovil	27	9	4	14	27	36	31
Altrincham	30	9	4	17	35	47	31
Eastleigh	29	8	7	14	34	47	31
Boston Utd	30	7	9	14	35	46	30
Aldershot	28	8	5	15	49	55	29
Sutton Utd	28	6	10	12	38	48	28
Braintree Tn	30	7	7	16	21	44	28
Morecambe	29	5	7	17	34	61	22
Truro City	28	5	6	17	27	50	21
Gateshead	27	5	4	18	30	65	19

ALTRINCHAM (0).... 1 **MORECAMBE (0).. 1**
Crankshaw 57
Nolan 49

FOREST GRN (1) .... 4 **WOKING (2) 2**
Kircough 15
Haughton 52
Rees 55
Knowles 78
Sanderson 11
Gbode 16

ROCHDALE (2) ..... 4 **BOREHAM W (0)... 1**
Rodney 7
Dieseruvwe 30, 51
Henderson 76
Brunt 72 (pen)

William Hill Scottish Prem

ST MIRREN (0)..... 1 **HEARTS (0) 0**
Freckleton 88
Att: 7,151

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hearts	25	16	6	3	47	20	54
Celtic	24	15	3	6	43	23	48
Rangers	24	13	9	2	37	17	48
Motherwell	24	11	10	3	37	17	43
Hibernian	24	9	9	6	38	28	36
Falkirk	24	9	6	9	27	31	33
Aberdeen	24	8	4	12	26	33	28
Dundee Utd	23	5	10	8	28	37	25
St Mirren	24	5	8	11	18	31	23
Dundee	24	6	5	13	19	37	23
Kilmarnock	24	3	8	13	23	43	17
Livingston	24	1	8	15	24	50	11

William Hill Scottish Championship

QUEEN'S PRK (0)... 0 **ROSS CNTY (0)..... 1**
Ikpeazu 79
Att: 718

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Johnstone	23	13	7	3	45	20	46
Partick	24	12	8	4	37	28	44
Arbroath	24	10	7	7	32	30	37
Ayr	23	7	11	5	30	27	32
Dunfermline	22	8	5	9	29	24	29
Raith	24	7	7	10	28	26	28
Morton	23	5	11	7	23	30	26
Airdrieonians	24	5	8	11	20	32	23
Ross County	23	5	7	11	23	38	22
Queen's Park	22	4	9	9	23	35	21

KDM Evolution Trophy Quarter-Final

ARBROATH (1) ..... 2 **AIRDRIE (1)..... 2**
Muirhead 35
Robinson 59
McGrattan 22
Henderson 79
Att: 535
Airdrieonians win 5-3 on penalties.

CRICKET

Third T20 International
Sri Lanka v England

PALLEKELE: England beat Sri Lanka by 12 runs

ENGLAND

J Buttler b Theekshana 25
B Duckett lbw Chameera 0
J Bethell c B K G Mendis b Pathirana 3
T Banton b Wellalage 7
H Brook c Liyanage b Pathirana 4
S Curran c Nissanka b Chameera 58
W Jacks c Nissanka b Chameera 3
L Dawson c P H K D Mendis b Chameera .. 14
J Overton c Liyanage b Chameera 2
A Rashid not out 7
L Wood not out 1
Lb1 w3 4
Total (9 wkts., 20 overs)..... 128

Fall: 2, 14, 28, 34, 47, 60, 107, 109, 127.

Bowling: Chameera 4-0-24-5, Shanaka 3-0-23-0, Pathirana 4-0-27-2, Wellalage 4-0-28-1, Theekshana 4-0-16-1, Mendis 1-0-9-0.

SRI LANKA

P Nissanka c Jacks b Dawson 23
R Mishara c Duckett b Wood 0
B Mendis c Rashid b Jacks 26
P Rathnayake b Rashid 13
P Mendis lbw Jacks 14
K Liyanage c Bethell b Jacks 17
D Wellalage c Buttler b Bethell 9
M Shanaka st Buttler b Bethell 4
P Chameera c Brook b Bethell 0
M Theekshana c Dawson b Bethell 2
M Pathirana not out 2
B4 lb1 w1 6
Total (19.3 overs) 116

Fall: 1, 34, 62, 62, 90, 97, 112, 112, 113.

Bowling: Wood 2-0-13-1, Dawson 4-0-25-1, Overton 1-0-14-0, Curran 1-0-9-0, Rashid 4-0-25-1, Bethell 3.3-0-11-4, Jacks 4-0-14-3.

Umpires: J Boteju & R Kottahachchi.

CYCLING

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, (Konya Velodrome, Turkey)**—Men's: Scratch: 1 A Vogel** (Swi), 18 W Tidball (Gbr), 20 M Fitzgerald (Irl). **Individual Pursuit: 1 L Gonov** (Ain) 4m 3.491s, 4 M Bostock (Gbr), 10 T Shoreman (Gbr). **Women's: Sprint: 1 E Finucane** (Gbr), 2 S Capewell (Gbr). **Omnium: 1 A Morris** (Gbr), 14 A O'Brien (Irl), 16 L Nelson (Gbr).

SNOOKER

WORLD GRAND PRIX (Hong Kong)**—1st rd: Y Zhou** (Chn) bt S Maguire (Sco) 5-2; **G Xiao** (Chn) bt K Wilson (Eng) 5-2; **E Slessor** (Eng) bt S Bingham (Eng) 5-2; **M Selby** (Eng) bt A Hill (Irl) 5-0; **Y Wu** (Chn) bt A McGill (Sco) 5-3; **B Hawkins** (Eng) bt J Ding (Chn) 5-3; **A Zhang** (Chn) bt M Williams (Wal) 5-2; **B Chang** (Chn) bt J Lisowski (Eng) 5-4.

TENNIS

ATP OPEN OCCITANIE (Montpellier)**—1st rd: T Droguet** (Fra) bt J Choinski (Gbr) 6-2 7-6 (7-2).

WTA OSTRAVA OPEN (Czech Republic)**—1st rd: K Boulter** (Gbr) bt L Havlickova (Cze) 6-4 3-6 6-1.

TODAY'S DIARY

(7.45pm unless stated)

Carabao Cup Semi-final Second Leg
Man City (2) v Newcastle (0) (8pm) .....
(Live on Sky Sports Main Event)

William Hill Scottish Prem
Aberdeen v Celtic (8pm) .....
(Live on Sky Sports Football)
Dundee v Motherwell .....
Hibernian v Dundee Utd .....
Livingston v Falkirk .....
Rangers v Kilmarnock .....

ICE HOCKEY
Elite Lge: Dundee v Manchester.

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND-UP

PECK PICKING UP THE PACE FOR BLADES

BY **TOM BLOW**

SHEFFIELD UNITED battled to a 3-1 win against OXFORD last night to keep their slim play-off hopes alive.

Goals from Sydie Peck, Andre Brooks and Chiedozie Ogbene saw the Blades recover from Myles Peart-Harris's early opener at Bramall Lane.

Oxford took the lead thanks to an awful bit of goalkeeping. U's captain Cameron Brannagan unleashed a tame effort from distance at Michael Cooper who should have grasped the ball safely.

But on a cold, wet night, the Blades stopper pushed it into the path of Peart-Harris for a tap-in.

The Blades' equaliser came when Ollie Arblaster found Harrison Burrows with a lovely ball over Oxford's defence. Burrows picked out Peck (top) in the middle, who picked out the bottom far corner.

That goal was sandwiched by two long-range efforts from Blades midfielder Gus Hamer.

The first went fizzing just past the post, while the second hit the crossbar.

Oxford tried valiantly to keep the hosts at bay after the break. Their resistance ended just after the hour mark when Tom Cannon got in behind the defence.

The Blades striker produced a low cross from the right to find Brooks, who initially struggled to get the ball out from under his feet before unleashing a strike into the top corner.

There was time late on for Ogbene to expertly control Hamer's searching ball and find the net.

Chris Wilder's Blades have jumped up to 15th in the table, eight points off the play-offs. Oxford remain 23rd, five points from safety.

HULL CITY were forced to settle for a point against WATFORD, closing the gap on the Championship's top two to four points after a 0-0 draw.

The point sees Hull's four-game winning run ended, though it does open up a nine-point cushion to seventh place.

BLACKBURN moved out of the relegation zone as they secured their first win in nine games with a 1-0 victory over SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY.

Eiran Cashin (inset) scored the only goal of the game for Rovers after 12 minutes to make it seven defeats in a row for Wednesday.

GUNNER GO

Supersub Havertz finally breaks Chelsea hearts to secure Arsenal's place in final

ARSENAL 1
Havertz 90+7
CHELSEA 0
Arsenal win 4-2 on aggregate

BY **JOHN CROSS**

IT WAS a brutal war of attrition on a night of nerves at the Emirates.

But after 180 minutes, Arsenal finally ended their semi-final curse to put Mikel Arteta on course for his first trophy in six years.

The Gunners are on their way to Wembley and, quite frankly, their fans will not care how they got there. But Kai Havertz having the last laugh on his old club with the 97th-minute clincher probably felt all the sweeter.

Chelsea were pushing forward, they gave everything and yet Arsenal punished them with a stunning breakaway goal.

After the drama of last month's five-goal thriller of a first leg, this was a snooze fest as Arsenal saw off Chelsea to also end their own semi-final curse. This was Arsenal's first semi-final success in five ties as they booked their place in the Carabao Cup final on March 22.

Incredibly, Arsenal are still in the hunt for four trophies this season as the Premier League leaders battled and scrapped all the way.

It was heartbreak for Chelsea boss Liam Rosenior who has only been in the job for 28 days but will take pride from the way his players battled across the two legs.

Ultimately, Chelsea just could not find a way through Arsenal's stubborn and resilient defence and there was a sting in the tail after such a tight battle.

There were so few chances in the game and then we had to wait until the bitter end for the decider.

It was a game big on tension and high stakes but very low on quality and entertainment.

Gunners defender Gabriel, wearing the captain's armband in the absence of injured skipper Martin Odegaard, sent a long ball over the top, Gabriel Martinelli raced away but then could not get a shot on target.

Chelsea did not manage their first shot on target until the 43rd minute when Enzo Fernandez (circled) curled a brilliant shot from 25 yards but Arsenal keeper Kepa Arrizabalaga beat the ball

TO WEMBLEY

1-0
Kai Havertz scores the stoppage-time winner to finally breaks Chelsea's resistence

LEAGUE CUP

ARSENAL		CHELSEA
44%	POSSESSION	56%
2	SHOTS ON TARGET	2
0	SHOTS OFF TARGET	8
407	TOTAL PASSES	513
2	CORNERS	5
1	OFFSIDES	1
14	FOULS	12
0	0 CARDS	3 0

REF: Peter Bankes

LINE-UPS

ARSENAL (4-3-3): Kepa; Timber, Saliba, Gabriel, Hincapie; Zubimendi, Rice, Eze; Madueke (Trossard 69), Martinelli, Gyokeres (Havertz 69)

CHELSEA (5-2-2-1): Sanchez; Gusto (Acheampong 87), Fofana, Chalobah, Hato (Estevao 60), Cucurella; Caicedo, Santos (Garnacho 75); Fernandez, Delap (Palmer 60); Pedro

MAN OF THE MATCH
PIERO HINCAPIE

away. It was hard to work out whether it was rope-a-dope from Arsenal or just dopey.

They did not look as if they knew whether to stick or twist with their slender first-leg lead.

The Gunners were also struggling to find any sort of rhythm or anything resembling top gear because too many players were subdued.

Eberechi Eze was very quiet in the No.10 role while Viktor Gyokeres was struggling to get into the game, although he was starved of much service. In contrast, Chelsea seemed content to bide their time because just one goal would level the tie and their goal was not under huge threat.

The frustration of it all saw Arteta booked soon after half-time as he complained about one decision too many for referee Peter Bankes' liking.

Rosenior sent for the cavalry on the hour mark as on came Estevao Willian and Cole Palmer to give Chelsea an extra edge in attack. Palmer blasted over with a free-kick as Chelsea pinned Arsenal back but the reality was that the home defence stood firm and saw it out (Gabriel and Kepa celebrate at full-time, right).

The Gunners then broke away at the death to finally relieve the pressure as Declan Rice charged clear, squared it for Havertz who rounded Robert Sanchez to slot home.

Then the celebrations began as the home fans sang their song to Havertz. "£60m down the drain – Kai Havertz scores again." Rarely has any of his goals felt better.

Mateta is in a world of trouble

BY **JOHN CROSS**

JEAN-PHILIPPE MATETA is facing a major World Cup fitness dilemma.

The Crystal Palace striker (above) saw his dream £30million deadline-day move to AC Milan fall through after medical checks on a knee issue.

The 28-year-old has had the problem a while, but now must decide whether to undergo surgery in a bid to be back in time to make France's squad this summer.

There is no guarantee that he would regain fitness in time to play games to prove his fitness to France boss Didier Deschamps.

But Mateta also knows the problem has been dragging on and affecting his form and availability.

He is worried that if he is below his best, he may not get the chances to play his way into the France team.

Mateta has enjoyed an incredible year at Palace, winning the FA Cup, but now faces the prospect of having to go back even though he has made it clear he wants to leave.

It looks inevitable that he will go this summer, with a year left on his contract, and Palace can't afford to let him run it down.

Mart hails big Bhoys

BY **RONNIE ESPLIN**

MARTIN O'NEILL says it was Celtic's board who turned down the "really tempting" bid of up to £25million for Arne Engels.

And the Celtic boss (below) also admitted speaking to out-of-contract Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.

Celtic signed Austria striker Junior Adamu from Freiburg, Brentford centre-half Ben Arthur and Lorient winger Joel Mvuka on loan on transfer deadline day.

But the board turned down a deal of £25m for 22-year-old Belgium midfielder Engels from from Nottingham Forest.

O'Neill said: "That's an awful lot of money for Celtic, but I'm glad the board did."

DX1ST

DAILY EXPRESS SPORT
express.co.uk/sport

Carabao Cup | EFL

ARSENAL 1 CHELSEA 0

Arsenal win 4-2 on aggregate

Gunners finally get the job done

BY **JOHN CROSS**

MIKEL ARTETA finally broke Arsenal's semi-final curse as the Gunners reached their first major final in six years.

They booked their place in the Carabao Cup final at Wembley on March 22 after Kai Havertz's winner in the 97th minute.

It ended a run of four straight two-legged semi-final defeats for Arsenal and puts Arteta within sight of his first trophy since he won the FA Cup in 2020.

But the hosts, who are still in the hunt for four trophies, had to see out a tense night of few chances before it was finally settled by super-sub Havertz's breakaway winner.

The former Chelsea player coolly rounded the keeper to slot home.

MATCH REPORT: PAGES 58-59

KAI HIGH
Arsenal celebrate Havertz's late goal last night

McNeil's 'in dark' over Palace deal

BY **NEIL DOCKING**

EVERTON star Dwight McNeil remains "in the dark" following the collapse of his proposed switch to Crystal Palace as his partner lashed out at the Eagles on social media.

The winger (below) appeared destined for Selhurst Park in a £20million deal, structured as an initial loan with a mandatory buy clause for the summer.

Palace submitted a deal sheet in a bid to secure an extra two hours to finalise the transfer as McNeil completed his medical.

Everton believed there was sufficient time to process all necessary documentation but, in a late turn of events, Palace failed to complete the paperwork

TURN TO PAGE 56, COLUMN 3

HEY BIG SPENDERS

Pep tells rivals they now have to win all the trophies after splashing more cash than City

NET GAIN
Guardiola reckons his rivals need trophies after spending spree

BY **SIMON BAJKOWSKI**

PEP GUARDIOLA has told Manchester City's big spending rivals they need to get more for their money.

City brought in Antoine Semenyo and Marc Guehi in January to take their spending in the last 12 months to £430million.

Mikel Arteta (below) claimed he was not surprised City splashed the cash in a bid to hunt down Arsenal in the title race, claiming: "They will do everything to win."

But speaking ahead of tonight's Carabao Cup semi-final clash

TURN TO P57, COL 3

Carabao Cup
MAN CITY (2)
NEWCASTLE (0)
Semi-Final
TONIGHT
8pm, ITV/Sky

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Puzzles

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions tomorrow**

EASY

			7	6	9		3	
1		4	5				9	7
	3	7			1			5
	8			5		9		
	9		2		7		5	
		1		3			2	
6			1			8	4	
3	1	2			5			9
			3	9	6			2

MEDIUM

				6	2		7	4
	1		7			3		
5			3			9	2	
9				4				1
		1	9		7		3	
6				5				7
	3	6	8		1			
		5			6		8	
2	8		4			6		

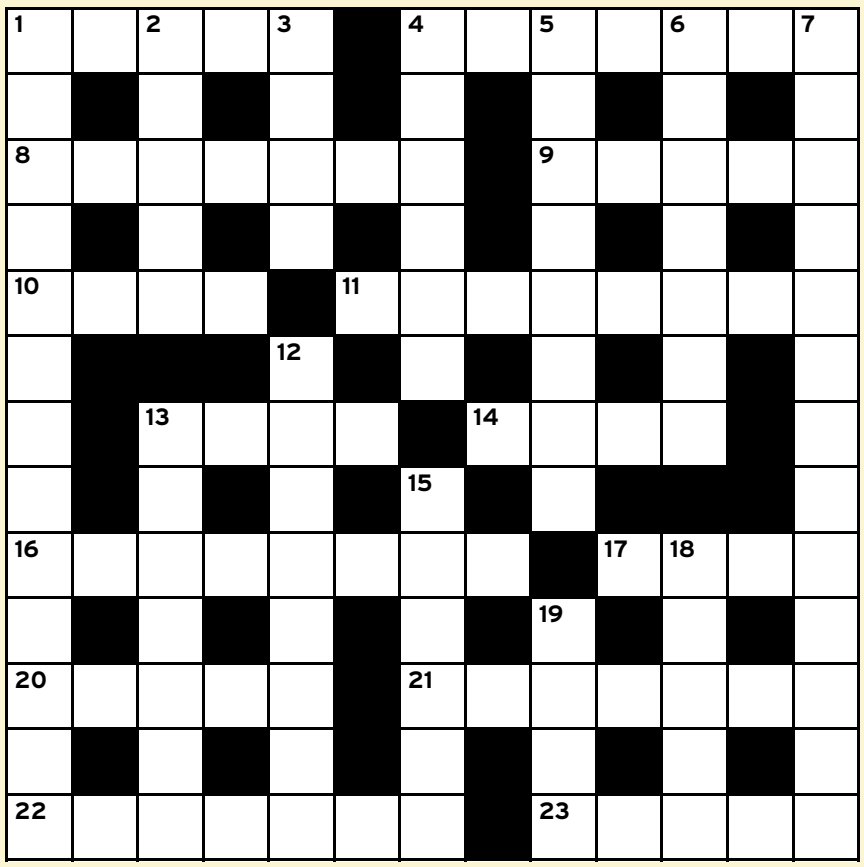
DIFFICULT

		9	6		4	7		
		5		1		4		
	4						3	
9		1		4		8		7
7		2		9		1		6
	2						7	
		8		5		3		
		3	4		2	5		

Extra clues: **0901 322 5609**
**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution: **0907 181 2573**
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Happening (5)
4 Detestable (7)
8 Condense (7)
9 Due (5)
10 Raised (4)
11 Small stream (8)
13 Excursion (4)
14 Found in nests (4)
16 Innocuous (8)
17 Narcotic (4)
20 Correct (5)
21 Voter (7)
22 Shreds (7)
23 Inundate (5)

DOWN
1 Setting up (13)
2 The pick (5)
3 Remove (4)
4 Famished (6)
5 Unmitigated (8)
6 Weaknesses (7)
7 Thievish (5-8)
12 Oust (8)
13 Anguish (7)
15 Estimate (6)
18 Proportion (5)
19 Slave (4)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - **Helpline 0333 202 3390*

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: **16 mins** Good: **12 mins** Excellent: **8 mins**

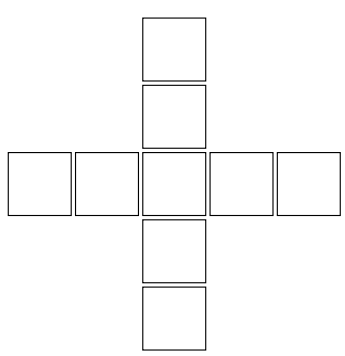
Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

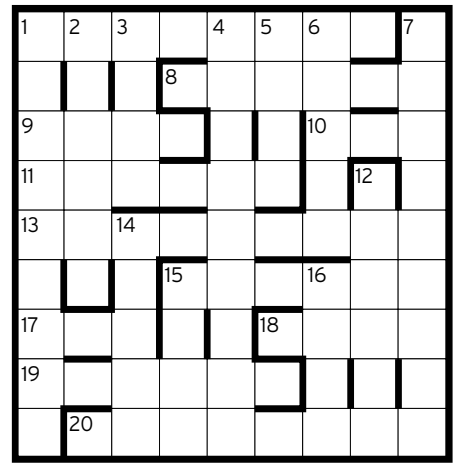
Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can – but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover – but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. Solution tomorrow



E E I O R R R S V

SMALL CROSSWORD



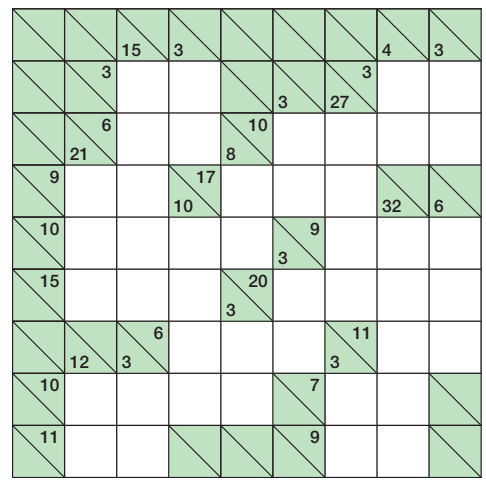
ACROSS
1 For all time (8)
8 Kind or sympathetic (6)
9 Rain heavily (4)
10 Forbid (3)
11 Give rise to (6)
13 Tried vice (anag.) (9)
15 Tool used to shape wood or stone (6)
17 English cathedral city (3)
18 Of sound mind (4)
19 That is to say (6)
20 Lets air out of (8)

DOWN
1 Appropriate (9)
2 Stringed instrument (6)
3 Needlecase (4)
4 Place of entertainment (5,4)
5 Do not include (4)
6 Jewish minister (5)
7 Without meaning or purpose (9)
12 Get retribution for (6)
14 Short poem (5)
15 Musical symbol (4)
16 Sodium chloride (4)

Solution tomorrow

For today's solution call:
0907 181 2582
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

KAKURO



Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence – across and down – must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

Solution tomorrow

Puzzles

QUIZWORD

ACROSS

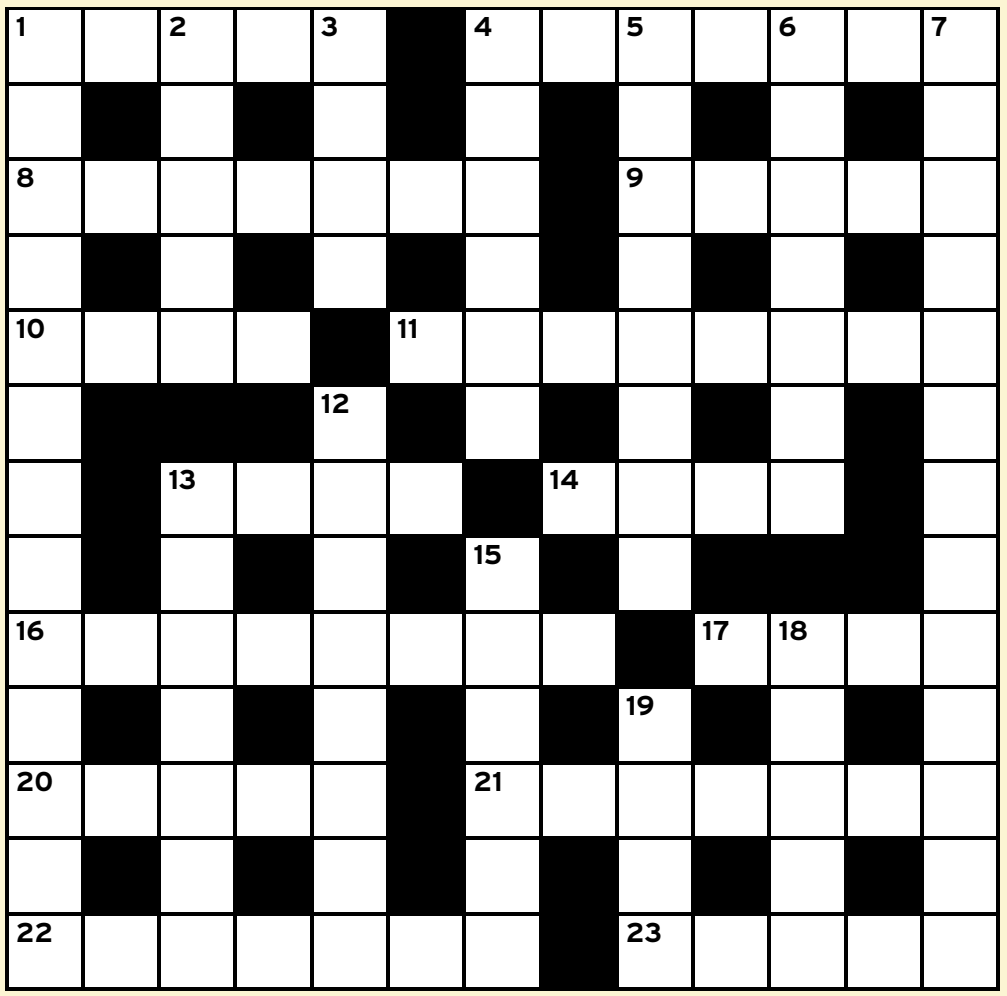
1 See 11
4 Alias of Natty Bumppo in stories by James Fenimore Cooper (7)
8 Brownish bunting, Emberiza hortulana, that is eaten as a delicacy (7)
9 Department of southeastern France whose capital is Grenoble (5)
10 The character, #, used to precede a number (4)
11 & 1 Across 1957 Dick Powell film starring Robert Mitchum as Capt Murrell (3,5,5)
13 Herbert Beerbohm, English actor-theatre manager who died in 1917 (4)
14 Robert, author of the play A Man For All Seasons (4)
16 Vicente, revolutionary made president of Mexico in 1829 (8)
17 Sholem, author of the novels Uncle Moses and The Nazarene (4)
20 Tourist island in the Mediterranean that is one of the Balearics (5)
21 & 5 Down Baseball team that won the 2005 World Series (7,5,3)
22 Small mammal of the mongoose family of southern Africa (7)
23 In music, a chord consisting of a note and the third and fifth above it (5)

DOWN

1 'The --- ---', German philologists who collected and published fairy tales (8,5)
2 In Greek mythology, a fruit that induced forgetfulness in those who ate it (5)
3 & 13 Down 2005 biopic starring Joaquin Phoenix as Johnny Cash (4,3,4)
4 Largest of the four main islands of Japan (6)
5 See 21 Across
6 Highest mountain in the world (7)
7 1984 Olympic women's 100m champion (6,7)
12 'The --- ---', 1955 novel by Norman Mailer (4,4)
13 See 3
15 Bertolt, German dramatist whose plays include The Caucasian Chalk Circle (6)
18 Former secret police in East Germany (5)
19 Soft absorbent material made from cotton or linen that is used to dress wounds (4)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call
0905 789 4190
to hear individual clues or the full solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*
Service provider Spoke Ltd –
Helpline 0333 202 3390



SAMURAI SUDOKU

In Samurai Sudoku, normal sudoku rules apply, but the 9x9 sudoku at the centre shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outer sudokus.

Solution tomorrow

4					1		9						6		2				5
			4	6	9										6	7	9		
		3				6	1						1	2				6		
	4		9		6			1				5			9		7		1	
	1			7				6				6				5			9	
3	7		8			9	2						2	9			8		4	7
		7			8				7		3				7			2		
5		4			7				2		9				3			9		4
			1	2						8						4	6			
						6	9						3	7						
								2				5								
						3	8						1	2						
			1	7						7						7	8			
6		8			4				9		6				5			9		7
		1			3				8		4				4			2		
8	1		7			4	3						9	4			6		2	1
	2			6				7				6				4			7	
	7		3		5			2				1			3		5		6	
		9				7	1						1	9				6		
			9	8	7										6	5	7			
2					1		6						5		1					3

WORD BUILDER

Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

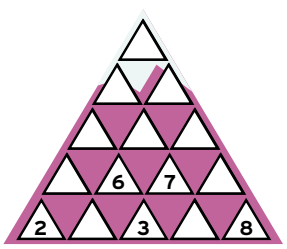
Solution tomorrow

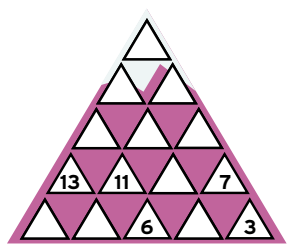
1 □□□
2 □□□□
3 □□□□□
4 □□□□□□
5 □□□□□
6 □□□□
7 □□□

1 Definite article
2 Engrave
3 Dry heave
4 Ditch
5 Freshwater fish
6 At that time
7 Fowl

SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?





Solution tomorrow

QUIZWORD

Across:
3 Apartment,
8 Abel,
9 Minnesota,
10 Baboon,
11 Salem,
14 Nurse,
15 Lira,
16 Twins,
18 Roeg,
20 Kyoto,
21 Rasse,
24 Nemeth,
25 Mexico Set,
26 Dion,
27 Woollcott.
Down:
1 Carbonari,
2 Lex Barker,
4 Pnin,
5 Ronda,
6 Mussel,
7 NATO,
9 Motet,
11 Snipe,
12 Milosevic,
13 Saxophone,
17 Skeet,
19 Gavial,
22 Stoic,
23 Reno,
24 Newt.

SAMURAI SUDOKU

2	6	8	7	1	5	3	9	4					4	2	8	5	9	6	1	7	3
4	3	5	2	6	9	7	8	1					5	9	3	7	1	4	2	8	6
9	7	1	4	8	3	6	2	5					1	7	6	3	2	8	5	9	4
8	5	4	9	2	6	1	7	3					9	8	4	6	5	2	7	3	1
3	2	7	1	4	8	5	6	9					2	3	5	8	7	1	4	6	9
6	1	9	5	3	7	8	4	2					7	6	1	9	4	3	8	5	2
7	4	6	3	5	2	9	1	8	6	7	4	3	5	2	1	6	7	9	4	8	
1	9	3	8	7	4	2	5	6	9	1	3	8	4	7	2	3	9	6	1	5	
5	8	2	6	9	1	4	3	7	8	5	2	6	1	9	4	8	5	3	2	7	
						5	7	2	4	8	1	9	3	6							
						3	8	9	2	6	5	1	7	4							
						1	6	4	7	3	9	2	8	5							
9	5	6	4	8	1	7	2	3	1	4	6	5	9	8	7	4	3	2	6	1	
3	1	8	9	2	7	6	4	5	3	9	8	7	2	1	8	6	9	4	5	3	
7	2	4	5	6	3	8	9	1	5	2	7	4	6	3	2	1	5	7	8	9	
4	6	2	3	5	9	1	7	8					2	7	5	1	3	8	9	4	6
5	9	3	1	7	8	2	6	4					8	3	4	9	7	6	1	2	5
8	7	1	6	4	2	3	5	9					9	1	6	4	5	2	3	7	8
6	8	9	7	3	4	5	1	2					1	8	2	5	9	7	6	3	4
1	3	7	2	9	5	4	8	6					3	5	9	6	2	4	8	1	7
2	4	5	8	1	6	9	3	7					6	4	7	3	8	1	5	9	2

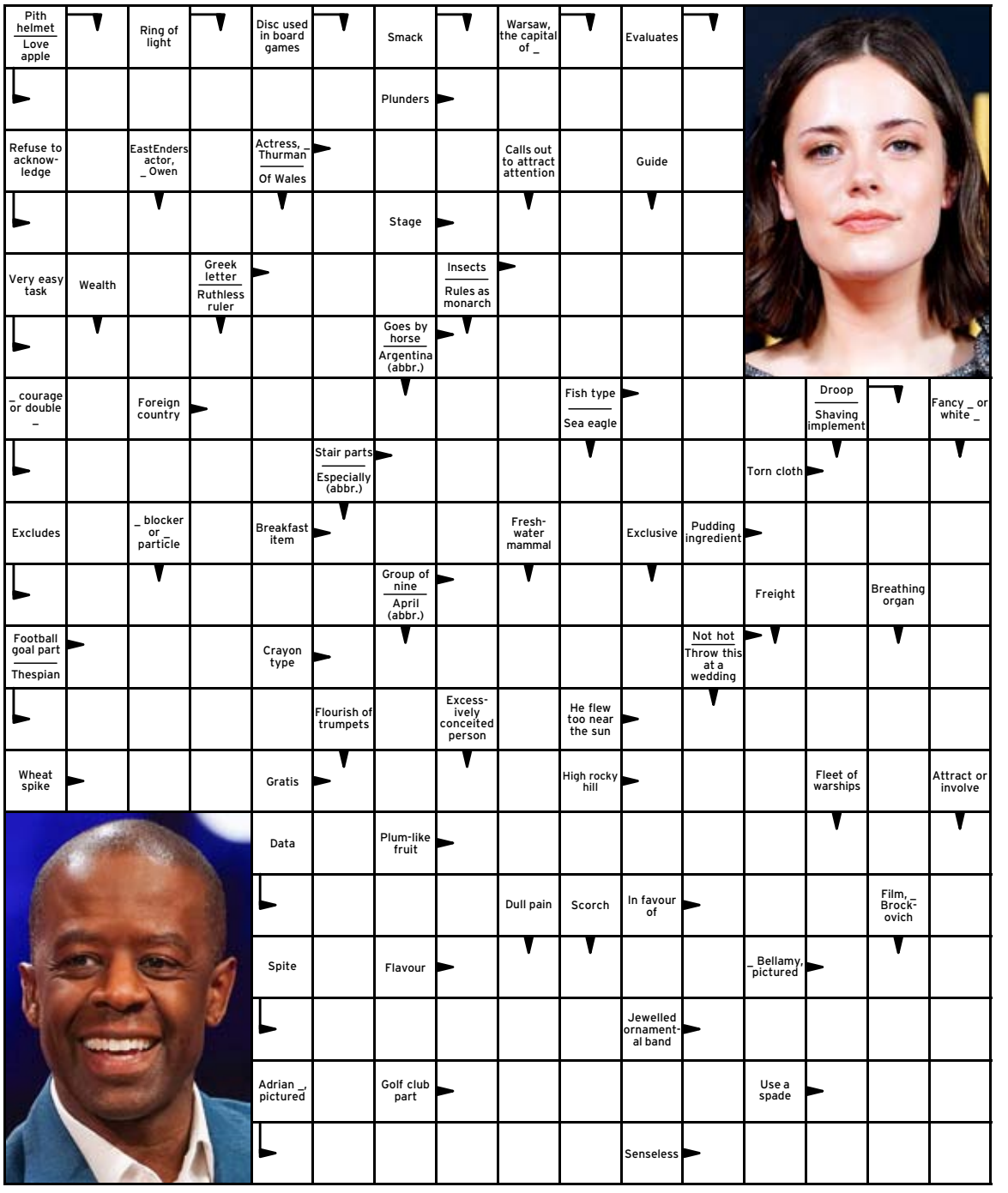
SMALL CROSSWORD

Across: 2 Notifies, **9** Angels, **10** Mars, **11** Jodi, **13** Halep, **14** Amsterdam, **16** Cobra, **19** Keen, **20** Pout, **21** Stance, **22** Daughter.
Down: 1 Jam-packed, **3** Ogres, **4** Test, **5** Ill health, **6** Idol, **7** Endear, **8** Shipmates, **12** Amoeba, **15** Drone, **17** Beau, **18** Spat.

ARROW-WORD

Arrow-words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Solution tomorrow



WORDSEARCH

V	A	W	A	S	H	V	A	L	L	E	Y	N	X	M
C	M	J	B	P	U	U	N	R	X	Q	O	J	Y	C
C	N	E	M	L	O	D	E	Z	I	N	Q	Z	I	B
I	F	M	E	E	F	H	I	S	G	M	X	P	W	W
H	H	L	V	I	C	O	A	A	H	P	A	M	N	P
T	T	A	A	S	I	R	M	B	A	L	I	T	K	J
I	O	H	C	T	Y	O	H	V	I	C	F	S	L	Y
L	M	T	R	O	R	C	I	W	R	L	L	D	B	A
O	M	R	E	C	X	L	U	O	J	N	I	C	L	O
E	A	E	E	E	A	U	L	L	O	Q	N	S	A	L
N	M	D	D	N	C	I	E	E	I	J	T	Y	S	D
K	R	N	D	E	T	K	E	N	M	I	Q	F	C	U
V	P	A	E	H	S	U	T	C	E	R	E	L	A	V
Y	U	E	R	K	X	U	I	Z	N	D	K	H	U	A
Y	D	N	Y	D	E	N	I	S	O	V	A	N	X	I

WORDS RELATED TO THE STONE AGE

Find all the terms listed below in the grid.

Solution tomorrow

ALTAMIRA ● AWASH VALLEY
CRO-MAGNON ● DENISOVAN ● DOLMEN
ERECTUS ● FLINT ● HABILIS ● LASCAUX
LUCY ● MAMMOTH ● MICROLITH
NEANDERTHAL ● NEOLITHIC ● OLDUVAI
PAVILAND ● PLEISTOCENE ● RED DEER CAVE

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: 3 Armistice, **8** Riot, **9** Contender, **10** Custom, **11** Brief, **14** Purge, **15** Rate, **16** Throb, **18** Coin, **20** Onset, **21** Named, **24** Lethal, **25** Benighted, **26** Moot, **27** Desecrate.
Down: 1 Precipice, **2** Constrain, **4** Room, **5** Inter, **6** Tender, **7** Chew, **9** Covet, **11** Bared, **12** Falsehood, **13** Ventilate, **17** Bored, **19** Native, **22** Ether, **23** Mete, **24** Lent.

WORDSEARCH

V	O	V	T	C	A	N	O	P	Y	V	J	T	L	K
E	P	K	R	R	A	C	F	K	P	S	L	Q	F	O
U	P	E	P	F	E	R	D	G	E	C	K	O	W	V
A	F	E	R	N	S	E	J	P	K	C	R	N	R	Z
Y	B	L	K	M	P	X	A	T	W	O	I	S	R	O
C	U	B	I	O	D	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	Y	A
H	T	T	I	T	C	P	K	J	R	K	F	V	H	P	M
T	T	Z	I	U	H	W	V	I	A	S	I	Z	N	P
O	E	A	A	J	C	E	T	D	D	S	L	O	T	H
U	R	M	A	Y	U	U	N	I	T	E	I	Z	C	I
C	F	A	K	J	O	O	H	O	H	I	H	O	E	B
A	L	Z	C	G	C	C	R	B	Q	O	R	A	F	I
N	Y	O	A	A	R	R	G	X	D	T	G	N	J	A
K	V	N	N	O	A	S	B	A	T	L	B	V	Y	N
T	M	A	H	P	S	N	M	Y	A	W	B	E	E	S

ARROW-WORD

	M		K		C		A		C		O			
G	A	Z	E	B	O		C	H	A	I	R			
	Z		G		B	A	T	O	N		E			
T	E	A	S	E	R			E	A	R	L			
		G			A	S	K		D	E	S			
P	R	O	T	E	S	T		N	A	P	E			
	Y		I			A	W	E		E		A			A
T	E	M	P	O		M		S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G
		A		R	E	P	U	T	A	T	I	O	N		E
F	E	N	C	E	S		S		X		C		N	O	D
	A	Y	R			S	P	E	C	I	M	E	N		U	
	S		E	V	E	R		I		O		E	A	R	N
S	T	E	W		N	O	C	T	U	R	N	A	L		O
					T		L	E	N	S		R	E	A	R
H	I	F	I		M	E	A	L		D					
	A			M	O	O			N	Y	L	O	N		
P	L	E	A		V	I	N			I	R	E			
	L			T	E	E		O	N	S	E	T			
T	Y	N	E		D	R	Y		A	S	S				

SUDOKU EASY

2	3	9	8	4	7	6	1	5
6	7	4	2	1	5	8	3	9
1	5	8	6	3	9	7	2	4
8	9	5	7	2	4	3	6	1
3	1	2	5	9	6	4	8	7
7	4	6	3	8	1	9	5	2
9	2	3	1	7	8	5	4	6
5	8	7	4	6	2	1	9	3
4	6	1	9	5	3	2	7	8

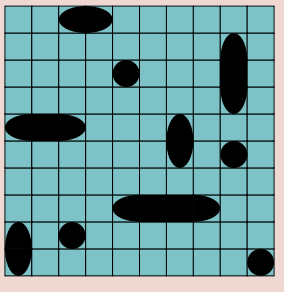
SUDOKU MEDIUM

2	4	3	8	9	6	1	5	7
7	1	5	4	2	3	6	9	8
9	8	6	5	1	7	2	3	4
6	5	9	2	3	4	8	7	1
3	2	1	6	7	8	5	4	9
8	7	4	9	5	1	3	6	2
5	9	8	3	4	2	7	1	6
4	6	7	1	8	5	9	2	3
1	3	2	7	6	9	4	8	5

SUDOKU DIFFICULT

5	4	2	6	7	3	1	9	8
3	7	8	4	1	9	5	6	2
6	1	9	2	5	8	3	7	4
9	3	7	8	6	1	4	2	5
2	8	4	7	9	5	6	1	3
1	6	5	3	2	4	7	8	9
4	5	6	1	8	2	9	3	7
7	2	3	9	4	6	8	5	1
8	9	1	5	3	7	2	4	6

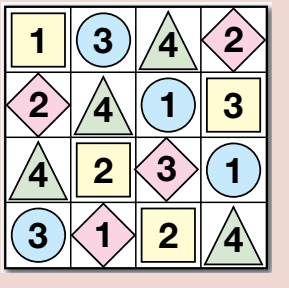
BATTLESHIPS



KAKURO

			4	1	2		2	1
	6	7	9	4	8		3	4
	1	2	8	3		3	1	
				2	6	1		
			7	5	9			
		2	1		7	8	2	1
	2	1		4	8	9	6	5
	1	3		1	3	2		

KEIJO



TARGET

ARTILLERY
alert, alertly, alit, alter, artery, artier, ARTILLERY, arty, irate, irately, laity, late, lately, later, lilt, lite, literal, literary, litre, lyrate, rarity, rate, ratel, reality, realty, relit, retail, retiral, retrial, retry, rite, tail, tale, tall, taller, tally, tare, tarry, teal, tear, tell, telly, terry, tier, tile, tiler, till, tiller, tire, trail, trailer, tray, trey, trial, trier, trill, tyre, yeti

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Acrid, Valet, Objection, Fury, Kiln, Chaos, Log, Hum, Icon, Hint, Fun, Mop, Sieve, Kite, Iris, Exquisite, Lathe, Mamba.
Down: Awful, Fakir, Originate, Ruby, Exit, Cross, Doe, Use, Clam, Yeti, Vat (clue), Sum, Seize, Look, Item, Nightmare, Denim, Paste.

THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 5, 8, 11, 14, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 28, 29, 31, 35, 39.
Across: Right, Royal, Husky, Cadenza, Earmuff, Tin, Axe, Singlet, Commits, Waves, Quips, Ambit.
Down: Yoghurt, Onus, Proscenium, Ugly, Riskiest, Otic, Urn, Swab, Prideful, Webs, Negativity, Jazz, Existed.

CROSS DOUBT

Across: THROW
Down: EXTRA

SUMMIT UP

91 and 100

WORD BUILDER

Fed, Fled, Field, Fiddle, Idled, Deli, Lid

Puzzles

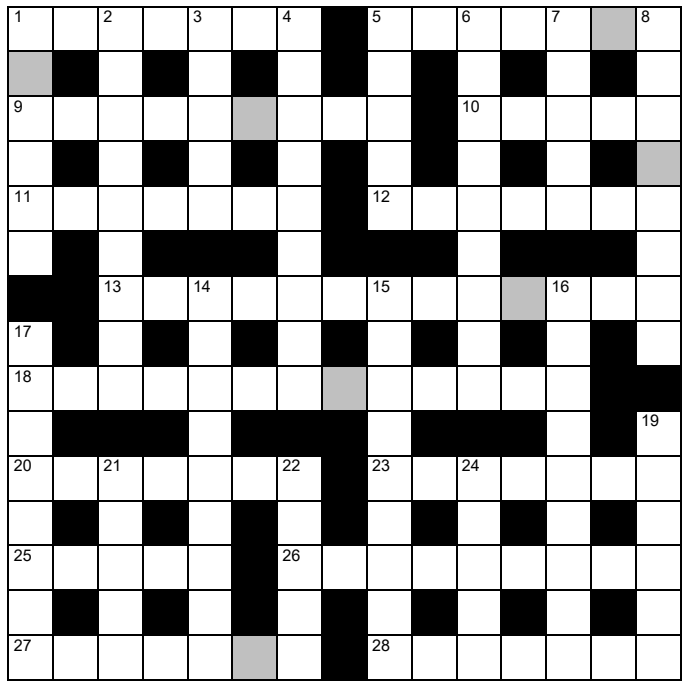
CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Dismiss objection to old instrument (7)
5 Almost choose fool over artist (7)
9 Shunning an empty space by a new church (9)
10 Green one found in part of church (5)
11 Asian feature – see improvement (7)
12 Kills report into winter transportation (7)
13 Exchanging assets in commercial area (7,6)
18 Soldier left lamer log about figure (13)
20 Article about concert (7)
23 Catches new satchel (7)
25 Digit hard to get into apple, say (5)
26 Join after drink, having a quick temper (5,4)
27 Suit student with less thin exterior (7)
28 Having money, but thinner (7)

DOWN

1 Heavy food in celebrity church (6)
2 Task first included getting registered as a singer (9)
3 Shift first half of bird (5)
4 Entering a different shade (9)
5 Reporters apply an amount of force (5)
6 He admits being an old king (9)
7 Playground item shows change of opinion (5)
8 Supervisor finished with prophet (8)
14 Not all met disaster in area of growth (9)
15 Old deity goes round and searches for beauty (4,5)
16 Hauls some around to cheap accommodation (9)
17 Drink for a supernatural being, terribly fit (8)
19 Feature alteration to space and time (6)
21 About two-thirds of acquaintances get answer (5)
22 Roles rewritten for no-hoper (5)
24 A large drink before sum (5)



WIN £100 CASH

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, February 4, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by February 5 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.
An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.
● ***One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.***

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

MONDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Bowler, 4 Scenario, 10 Sardine, 11 Rubbish, 12 Barmy, 13 Education, 14 Debilitating, 18 Small fortune, 23 Handlebar, 24 Miles, 25 Illegal, 26 Gagster, 27 Alsatian, 28 Cloned. **DOWN:** 1 Busybody, 2 Wardrobe, 3 Edify, 5 Circuit, 6 No-brainer, 7 Raisin, 8 On hand, 9 Deceit, 15 Lamplight, 16 Bulletin, 17 Censored, 19 Lobelia, 20 Forage, 21 Sheila, 22 Ankles, 24 Mogul.
Prizeword: Lunatic

TARGET

C	K	E
N	R	Y
B	U	P

● *The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)*

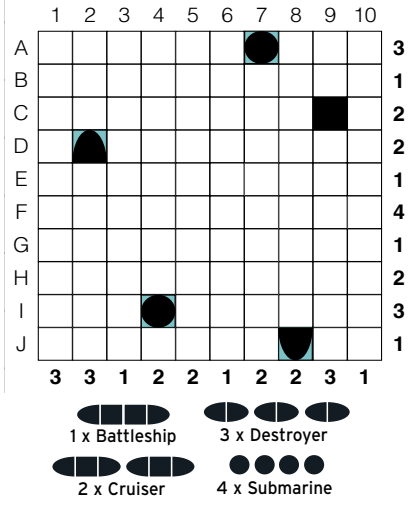
HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in S permitted.

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 14; **very good** 21; **excellent** 27 **(or more).** Solution tomorrow

Call **0907 181 2585**
for today's Target solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.
Solution tomorrow



THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 38 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.
Solution tomorrow

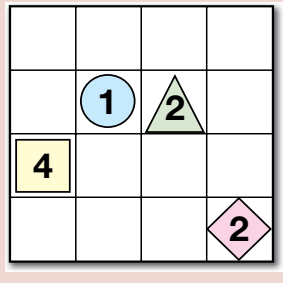
Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)
Full solution
0907 181 2558
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

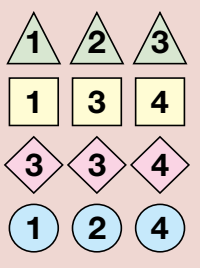
A	35	30	28	2	26	19	40	14	21	30	5	39	24
B	37	11	33	23	30	15	39	18	13	36	17	18	28
C	34	30	32	34	8	37	5	6	40	3	29	4	1
D	33	38	40	21	13	36	9	2	20	17	34	2	13
E	14	30	4	2	23	9	27	26	22	18	15	33	35
F	18	21	29	32	10	7	22	19	1	28	17	39	30
G	12	19	5	2	32	31	34	7	18	28	24	1	8
H	12	18	25	36	21	5	15	11	37	30	22	27	2
I	2	24	10	17	15	28	5	26	29	34	30	25	20
J	20	2	13	28	26	7	8	2	20	37	10	7	40
K	10	38	5	18	33	20	1	29	7	31	28	18	36
L	39	18	6	7	17	30	36	27	16	19	24	13	22
M	15	26	23	25	22	8	23	29	7	28	9	2	26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
							Y	H										■	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
■										P									

● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT** to **64343.** Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

KEIJO





Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column.
Solution tomorrow

THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. Solution tomorrow

DIFFICULTY: 7/10; **TARGET:** 22 mins; **CLUE:** Join up with a confused loner.

A	10	18	7	3	■	5	7	14	3	25	9	12	23
B	7	■	2	■	21	■	21	■	18	■	8	■	4
C	11	25	1	12	23	7	11	■	6	25	15	7	2
D	16	■	25	■	18	■	12	■	8	■	3	■	13
E	8	14	23	25	3	■	6	8	15	2	8	15	■
F	6	■	■	■	15	■	3	■	■	■	18	■	15
G	7	6	7	3	22	4	■	7	19	25	2	1	25
H	2	■	20	■	■	■	7	■	7	■	■	■	10
I	■	14	12	6	25	11	21	■	15	7	14	3	25
J	26	■	7	■	2	■	7	■	7	■	20	■	3
K	18	3	3	25	11	■	15	18	2	24	12	11	25
L	18	■	8	■	18	■	12	■	3	■	7	■	11
M	11	25	15	17	23	25	14	14	■	14	3	7	4

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	N				P								
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
	C												

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568*
Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.
FULL SOLUTION: **0907 181 2565***
ACROSS ONLY: **0907 181 2561*** / DOWN ONLY: **0907 181 2562***
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DXALPHA** *to* **64343.** *Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.*

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THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 23; INTERMEDIATE = 297; ADVANCED = 22.

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